

Iraq ban should be eased — Cheysson

BAGHDAD (R) — Former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, fresh from talks with President Saddam Hussein, said on Sunday he believed U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 should now be eased.

"I feel lifting or suspension of sanctions is in view. To isolate Iraq from the rest of the world represents a danger to peace. Humiliating Iraq gives a chance to fanatics in other parts of the world," he told a news conference.

He said Iraq was determined to abide by U.N. resolutions.

Also on Sunday, Iraq said it was discussing with France steps needed to bring about an easing or lifting of the crippling sanctions, which have cost it an estimated \$50 billion in lost oil revenue since.

Baghdad newspapers, quoting an Iraqi News Agency report from Paris, said Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Riyad al Qaisi was on a visit to France and had met senior French foreign ministry officials.

"The two sides agreed to continue work at the Security Council in line with a coordinated plan with specific steps," Mr. Qaisi said, without elaborating.

Mr. Cheysson, France's foreign minister from 1981-1985, said he was not in any official capacity in Iraq but had met French officials before coming to Baghdad and believed they would be interested in the outcome of his visit.

"It (visit) gave me the

chance to have confirmation of what I really knew and in particular the determination of the Iraqi authorities, the president and government to abide by the resolutions of the Security Council. It was confirmed to me and I have noted that with gratitude," said Mr. Cheysson, who met President Saddam on Saturday and had long discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz after his arrival on Friday.

He said he did not bring up a U.N. report last week which said Iraq is still hiding information on its past weapons programmes, failing to declare data on radar equipment or biological research until confronted with evidence.

Asked whether France's backing for an easing of the oil embargo was merely for economic interests, he said: "There is no shame in having economic interests in Iraq. You think Americans have no economic interest in Iraq?"

"I personally have always been against embargoes. I think an embargo adds suffering to sufferings of the population in particular the weakest part of the population, children, poor people and this at times takes a criminal nature," he said.

The Security Council is scheduled to hold its next periodic review of Iraq sanctions on Jan. 17 and diplomats said Iraq was hoping for a favorable hearing after its last month reorganised Kuwait within established by a U.N. commission.

Weizman hopes to end 'cold peace' with Egypt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — President Ezer Weizman is due to start his first official visit to Egypt on Monday in a bid to warm up relations between the two countries which have remained frosty despite their 1979 peace accord.

Egypt was the first Arab country to end hostilities with the Jewish state but bilateral relations have remained at the level of a "cold peace."

Israel now believes the time has come to turn the page and breathe new life into their relations, following the significant steps taken towards peace in the Middle East, officials here said Sunday.

Mr. Weizman strongly supported the Camp David agreements in 1978 which paved the way for the peace treaty a year later. He visited Egypt 25 times before being elected president in 1993 and has close relations with several leading Egyptian politicians.

His three-day trip is scheduled to include a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak as well as talks with Prime Minister Arafat Sedki, Foreign Minister Amr Musa and other cabinet ministers.

The last visit to Egypt by an Israeli president was made by Yitzhak Navon in 1981, and no Egyptian head of state has returned the courtesy since former President Anwar Sadat's trip to occupied Jerusalem in 1977.

Mr. Mubarak may take the opportunity during his meeting with Mr. Weizman to announce the date of his first visit to Israel, Israeli television said.

"There will be a rapprochement in the wake of the accord signed between

Israel and the PLO on Sept. 13, 1993, and the peace treaty with Jordan on Oct. 26," a senior Israeli foreign ministry official said.

Israel had contented itself with the "cold peace" stalemate in order not to hamper Egypt's efforts to end its isolation in the Arab World which followed the 1979 treaty as Arab countries showed their anger by cutting off aid and severing political and economic ties.

But now the cold peace has no reason to exist, the official said.

Bilateral trade reached \$270 million in 1993, mainly due to sales of Egyptian oil products.

Israel in turn sells chemical, plastic and agricultural products to Egypt as well as machines.

According to the tourism ministry about 50,000 Israelis visit Egypt each year, and about 20,000 Egyptians have been in Israel in 1994 compared with 5,000 the year before.

The increase is mainly explained by the lifting of some Egyptian administrative red-tape, and the planning adoption of a law against double taxation should also help boost relations.

Mr. Weizman will discuss cooperation in fighting terrorism, as well as closer links in telecommunications, tourism and culture, the head of his office, Arieh Shumer, said.

In the past weeks the Israeli press has criticised the "hostile attitude" of the main Egyptian media and the constant refusal by labour unions and professional groups to normalise ties with their Israeli counterparts.



TUNISIAN VICTORY: Players of Esperance of Tunisia hold aloft the cup after they beat 3-1 Zamalek of Egypt in the second leg of the African Champions Cup in Cairo on Saturday.

From left to right, president of the club Slim Chiboub, goalie Ouaer, captain Ben Naj and Mahjoub (AFP photo)

Iran says it cannot be deprived of nuclear ability

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said Sunday that Iran supports the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and cannot be deprived of using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

"The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have repeatedly said that Iran does not seek nuclear and atomic weapons and has no wish to make a non-peaceful use of atomic energy," Hasan Ruhwani said.

"For this reason, the details of the NPT are very important to use and are closely linked to our national security and our country's growth and development," said Mr. Ruhwani, who is also deputy parliament speaker.

The United States claims that Iran, a signatory of the NPT, is engaged in a clandestine

drive to acquire nuclear weapons as part of a major arms buildup that will pose a threat to the region and beyond.

Iran has repeatedly denied that, saying its nascent nuclear programme is aimed at generating electricity to meet rapidly growing demand among its 60 million population and help revive its moribund economy.

Washington is pressing its allies to limit the sale of advanced technology, including equipment with military applications, to the Islamic republic.

Last year, Indian and the Czech Republic among other states, bowed to U.S. pressure not to sell nuclear technology to Tehran. But the Americans believe that Iran is seeking help from cash-strapped Russia.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director James

Woolsey said in September that Iran is "eight to 10 years away" from building nuclear weapons "and that help from the outside will be critical in reaching that time table."

Mr. Ruhwani, addressing a Tehran seminar attended by civil officials, researchers, university students and lecturers, stressed: "The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be deprived of the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the wishes of the USA."

The state-run television, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mr. Ruhwani as saying that due to the presence of U.S. warships with nuclear weapons in the Gulf region and the proximity of nuclear weapons in neighbouring countries — a reference to Israel and Pakistan — Iran had "more reason than most" to be worried about nuclear proliferation.

He called for strict adherence to the NPT by all countries and powers, the television said.

Russian experts are completing technical studies on completing a nuclear power plant at Bushehr, on Iran's northern Gulf coast, according to the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran.

The plant's two 1,200-megawatt reactors were partly built by a German firm before the 1979 revolution. Work was abandoned on the plant during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, when it was bombed several times.

China has said it will provide Iran with at least one 300-megawatt nuclear reactor.

Before the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was toppled in 1979, he had embarked on a plan to build 20 nuclear reactors for power generation.

Scant hopes for Turkey's democratisation drive

ANKARA (R) — Ankara, under fire by Europe for jailing eight Kurdish deputies, promises a democratisation drive, but Turkish intellectuals say the government's promises are empty.

"A democratisation package exists as a kind of fantasy," Oral Calislar, a writer and journalist sentenced to jail for interviewing Kurdish guerrilla leaders, said at the weekend.

"But there is not the smallest chance — I see absolutely no proof at all — that democratisation will succeed. All the promises that (Prime Minister Tansu) Ciller has given to European leaders are to appease them," he added.

Turkey's restrictive legislation enabling arrests for expressing separatist opinions has made it unpopular with the West, to which it looks for economic integration into the European Union (EU).

The West slammed the deputies' recent sentences of up to 15 years in jail for separatism, and the issue has jeopardised Turkey's chances of sealing a customs union deal with the EU next week.

"We have to become more democratic," said Sahri Yavuz, head of the parliamentary human rights inquiry commission.

"Europe is pushing us into isolation, our relations are at breaking point because

democratisation has not taken place," said Mr. Yavuz, deputy for the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP).

The SHP, junior partners in the ruling coalition with Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP), was responsible for the 1991 birth of the so-called "democratisation package," which promises all kinds of freedom from union rights for civil servants to overhauling Turkey's military era constitution.

But despite SHP threats to pull out from the coalition if the package's passage is not sped up, only a couple of laws of the proposed 61 have been changed.

Rightists and Islamists have strongly challenged long-awaited changes to Turkey's notorious anti-terror law, under which Mr. Calislar, the deputies and hundreds of others were convicted.

"They talk of terror, but unless the government changes the 1980 military constitution, it is simply patching up bad laws," said an Istanbul lawyer, who declined to be named.

The constitution breaches international human rights rules.

But constitutional changes, much-discussed few months back, seem a long way off and many now believe the package has become a huge white elephant because of an



Tansu Ciller

obsessive focus on terror.

"All work has been devoted to the prevention of terrorism act, but the public has been given the impression a wide-ranging survey of the freedom of thought is taking place," Sibel Unlu, deputy head of Izmir Bar, has said in a joint statement with Ankara bar chief Erdal Merdol.

Turkey has been battling separatist Kurdish guerrillas for the past 10 years. It was hit by waves of leftist and religious attacks before that.

More than 13,000 people have been killed since the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) launched its bloody independence campaign in the largely Kurdish southeast of the country in 1984.

Turkey's prevention of terrorism act was introduced in 1991 to replace wider legislation clamping down on left-wing and religious acts and propaganda against the state.

The proposed changes include a definition of terror that refers to a constitutional clause on the secular nature of the state and loyalty to its secular founder Kemal Ataturk.

Islamic circles say that will mean people can be put in jail simply for saying parts of the Koran are true.

"It may enable the release of some people imprisoned for thought crimes, while an important part of the population, that is devout Muslims, become liable to be jailed," said Nuh Gonultas, who writes for the Islamic daily Zaman.

Ms. Ciller this month visited leaders of Islamic sects to win them over, but media reports suggested they were unconvinced.

Islamists and secularists have also charged that the law is vague enough for judges to manipulate and condemn anyone whose ideas they do not like.

"So, although I am no terrorist, I have to pay attention to an anti-terror law," said Aleaddin Kaya, owner of Zaman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Militants kill 'collaborator' in Egypt

MINIYA, Egypt (AFP) — Islamic militants shot dead a peasant they suspected of collaborating with the police and wounded his son in the Mallawi region of southern Egypt on Saturday, police said. The two gunmen from the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyya group struck at the man's home in the village of Tando, 300 kilometres south of Cairo. His son was seriously wounded as he tried to stop them escaping. Police recently found a hit list of 150 policemen and 150 "collaborators" drawn up by the militants, although it was not known if the dead man, Nashed Sadek, was among them. He was targeted for giving police information which had led to the arrest of Gamaa militants in the Mallawi region. A total of 534 people have died since fundamentalists launched their campaign against the government in March 1992.

800 couples marry in mass wedding in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Eight hundred cash-strapped couples got married Saturday in a mass wedding organised by an Iranian charity in seven towns including Tehran. The Ayatollah Khomeini Aid Committee, a charity set up after Iran's 1979 revolution to help poor families, organises several hundred weddings a year on religious holidays. In November the association organised the joint wedding of 2,500 couples in the same day. Joint marriages are cheaper than traditional ceremonies and have been held regularly in Iran since the revolution. A traditional ceremony costs at least five million rials (2,000 U.S. dollars), three to four times the average annual salary of a labourer or a low-ranking official. Dowries are an extra 10 million rials. Saturday was the anniversary of the birth of Ali, the son-in-law and successor to Mohammad and the first Shiite Muslim leader.

U.N. to keep close watch on pyramids

BANGKOK (AFP) — The United Nations' World Heritage Committee will continue to "monitor closely" an Egyptian highway project to ensure that Cairo diverts the road from the Great Pyramids, a U.N. official said here Sunday. Richard Englehart, Bangkok director of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said that the Egyptian authorities had assured the committee early Sunday that the pyramids would not be threatened. "They said that they had ordered the diversion of the project already," Mr. Englehart told AFP. "Of course, it will be part of our job to monitor it closely for the next year," he added. The highway project, discussed early Sunday, was the most sensitive item on the agenda of this year's gathering, held at the southern Thai resort island of Phuket. Last week, excavators discovered a tomb and artifacts along the road's path. By Thursday, President Hosni Mubarak announced that no measures would be taken on the motorway without his "personal approval." UNESCO has been openly critical of the project, while engineers have complained that a diversion would undercut the purpose of a highway.

Kuwaiti jailed for "collaborating" with Iraq

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti police officer has been sentenced to life imprisonment for collaborating with Iraqi secret services during the 1990-1991 occupation of the emirate, legal officials told AFP Sunday. Khalid Sahar Al Khalidi, 40, was found guilty after a three-year trial before the state security court here, a court official said. Mr. Khalidi faced several charges including joining the Iraqi popular army, a militia active during the seven-month occupation, and taking regular wages from the Iraqis, the official added. He also criticised Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah in public, which is forbidden under the Kuwaiti constitution. The official said the defendant denied all charges, but more than 20 witnesses testified before the court that he was guilty.

2,500-year-old sin prevents marriage

TEL AVIV (AFP) — When Massud Cohen fell in love with Chochana Haded and asked for her hand in marriage, he had no idea one of her distant ancestors had committed a sin against Jewish law 2,500 years ago. But Israel's high rabbinic court remembered and has prevented the couple from marrying for 10 years, the Yediot Aharonot daily reported Sunday. In 580 B.C. Chochana's erring relative, known as a "Cohen" or priest in Hebrew, left the promised land to live on the island of Djerba in Tunisia. He married a divorcee, so breaking a Jewish law on priests which was then in turn imposed on all his descendants. As a result the rabbinic in Galilee in northern Israel has ruled that Chochana, a spinster, cannot marry 43-year-old Massud because he is divorced. The couple has tried to find more forgiving rabbis to marry them but to no avail. The high rabbinic has told them their relationship can never be recognised in law and that their child born a short time ago will remain illegitimate.

Sudan calls for help over refugee crisis

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A senior Sudanese official called Sunday on Arab and Islamic countries to help feed more than one million refugees who are overburdening the country's weak economy. Commissioner for Refugees Ihsan Al Ghabshawi told the opening session of a three-day national conference on refugees here that Sudan desperately needed help from abroad to meet the refugees' needs in the light of cuts in international aid. Ms. Ghabshawi said most of the refugees were from Muslim countries, and that Arab and Islamic countries that had failed to provide Sudan with aid over the last three decades should play a role in easing the crisis. "We appeal to the Arab League (and) the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to give more attention to the plight of refugees in the Sudan," she told the conference. According to the country's commission for refugees, Sudan is currently home to 1,042,630 refugees, more than three quarters of whom are from Ethiopia and Eritrea.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Pollards
17:30 Un Pour Tous
18:00 Les Invention De La Vie
18:30 Les Interpelles
19:00 New in French
19:15 Magazine Sport
19:30 Black Beauty
20:00 Boogies Disc
20:30 Quantum Leap
21:10 Shades of L.A.
22:00 News in English
22:30 Grushko

PRAYER TIMES

05:02 Fajr
(6:25) (Sunrise) Doha
11:32 Dhur
14:16 'Asr
16:39 Maghrib
18:02 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweithel, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
637885
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
677440.

Terra Sancta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623441.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771781.
Armenian International Church Tel.
625256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
634328.
German-speaking Evangelical Church
Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in
Tel. 811295

Tel: 77311-19

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures will drop with heavy rain expected in all regions and snow over heights exceeding an altitude of 1,000 metres. Winds will be westerly strong. In Agaba, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be westerly active and seas rough.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3/6

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Rami Mawri 794788
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
Dr. Mukhlis Mazahrah 620425
Dr. Khalil Al Tushiq 737253
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 782336
Al Azma pharmacy 670255
Nairoby pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simchani pharmacy 676660
Nairoby pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
AMMAN:
Dr. Rami Mawri 794788
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
Dr. Mukhlis Mazahrah 620425
Dr. Khalil Al Tushiq 737253
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 782336
Al Azma pharmacy 670255
Nairoby pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simchani pharmacy 676660
Nairoby pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 2 / 9 Jordan Valley 7 / 12	YARQA: Dr. Abdul Karim Khassabneh 983023 Khalil pharmacy 985417	Electric Power Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200	For the Traveller QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.
EMERGENCIES Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 617101 Blood Bank 751211 Highway Police 643402 Traffic Police 896390 Public Security Department 60321 Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467 Amman Municipality Complaints 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 774111 Radio Jordan 680100 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS AMMAN: Dr. Rami Mawri 794788 Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740 Dr. Mukhlis Mazahrah 620425 Dr. Khalil Al Tushiq 737253 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 782336 Al Azma pharmacy 670255 Nairoby pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Simchani pharmacy 676660 Nairoby pharmacy 623672 Najib pharmacy 847632 AMMAN: Dr. Rami Mawri 794788 Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740 Dr. Mukhlis Mazahrah 620425 Dr. Khalil Al Tushiq 737253 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 782336 Al Azma pharmacy 670255 Nairoby pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Simchani pharmacy 676660 Nairoby pharmacy 623672 Najib pharmacy 847632	HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816 Akshik Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Mahas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shamsan 664171/4 Shamsan Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/9 The Islamic, Abdali 664171/4 Al-Ahli, Abdali 77101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 89161/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602409/9 Amal Hospital 674155 Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital RJ: (09)905640 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 EBMD: Princess Summa Hospital (02)375335 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)375275	ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 07:30 Sanas (RJ) 08:30 Jeddah (RJ) 09:00 Damascus (RJ) 09:30 Beirut (RJ) 09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:00 Dhahran (RJ) 11:00 New Delhi (RJ) 12:30 Cairo (RJ) 13:00 Beirut (RJ) 13:30 Bangkok (RJ) 13:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:45 Khartoum (SD)
09:35 Cairo (EG)
12:35 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Huddersfield (UK)
14:30 Kiev (AU)
17:05 Rome (AZ)
17:50 Paris (AF)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
22:10 London (BA)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
05:45 Beirut (RJ)
08:45 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:30 Istanbul, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:25 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30 Damascus (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
05:45 Khartoum (SD)
08:45 Istanbul (TK)
08:15 Beirut (MF)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
13:30 Bangkok (RJ)
13:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fih per kg
Apples 700 / 900
Bananas 400 / 500
Cabbages 100 / 120
Carrots 200 / 300
Cauliflower 400 / 500
Chicory 300 / 400
Cucumbers (large) 400 / 500
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 400
Eggplants 200 / 300
Garlic 100 / 120
Grape Fruit 200 / 300
Lemon 200 / 300
Marrow (large) 200 / 300
Marrow (small) 200 / 300
Onion (green) 200 / 300
Onion (red) 200 / 300
Orange 200 / 300
Pepper (hot) 200 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 300
Potato 200 / 300
Radish 200 / 300
Spinach 200 / 300
String Beans 200 / 300



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday views a display of home furnishings at the new headquarters of the Jordan River Designs Project. To the Queen's left is Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda (Petra photo)

Queen inaugurates headquarters of Jordan River Designs Project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated the new headquarters and showroom for the Jordan River Designs Project, which provides training and jobs to underprivileged women in Al-Mahatta and Al-Natfiyah suburbs of Amman, a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor invited Save the Children to Jordan to provide technical assistance and training to the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation's, NHF, National Handicrafts Project. Since then, both Bani Hamida Weaving Project and Jordan River Designs have become independent.

The Queen supports their activities and promotes their products nationally and internationally.

NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) cooperated in the past with Jordan River Designs in product development and export marketing and currently markets their products in JDTC tourist shops in Petra, the statement said.

Established in 1987, the Jordan River Designs Project gives needy women skills to revive traditional Jordanian handicrafts while providing them with income to raise their standard of living.

Geared towards self-reliance and grass roots participation, the project provides these women with interest-free loans to set up small projects and market their own products. New showroom, said the statement, is a stone house built in 1936, which was restored by architect Ammar Khammash in its traditional style and spirit.

Queen Noor toured the showroom and viewed the products which include bed covers, pillows, olive oil soap, leather bags and traditional dolls, the statement said.

She also visited the Bani Hamida House and viewed its autumn collection, it said.

Queen Noor was received by Mark Edington, Save the Children Middle East Area Director and Jordan Field Office Director and Hana Shahin, Jordan River Designs Project manager.

Also present at the event were Ambassador of Japan Yuji Ikeda, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Director William F. Oliver, Senator Leila Sharaf and local businesspersons.

The renovation was financed with an allocation of U.S. \$39,896 from the government of Japan within the framework of the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP), a Japanese embassy statement said Sunday.

According to the USAID spokesperson, the agency has over the past five years granted the Jordan River Designs Project a total of \$355,000.

Crown Prince calls for focus on equity, integration and health for all

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Selectivity, political correctness and empty words should be avoided in preference to equity, integration and health for all, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday.

"If we continue with selectivity... we will not address the problems. I suggest that we look at what the matrix of international issues will look like next year, the 50th anniversary (of the United Nations)," Prince Hassan said at a meeting of World Health Organisation (WHO) task force members held as part of a three-day conference entitled "Health in Development Issues."

The Crown Prince urged the task force, of which he is a member, not to fall into the ranks of other convening groups as idea originators only.

At the end of 1994, the Crown Prince said, he felt that the importance of health had not been discovered and that throughout 1995 a different approach should be adopted.

Equity, integration and health are part of the agenda of WHO task force's bi-annual meeting here.

"A theme of man against man and against nature is one way of addressing the 50th anniversary," he said.

Prince Hassan also said that the occasion of the anniversary should provide an opportunity to "look at the 50th year as a year in which we will pull together... and address issues of ethics of human solidarity, global issues, forces of change, violence, vulnerable groups, man-made disasters," among others.

With regard to equity among the region's peoples, Prince Hassan said that by the year 2010, 130 million Arabs will enjoy the purchasing power of seven million Israelis.

"I wonder if we are effectively talking of a situation where we are predicting inequity," he said, indicating a need for action to stem future incrementation of income disparities.

Prince Hassan suggested the formation of a regional council to serve as a powerful lobby with an agenda and not a "wish list."

He also voiced criticism of the Casablanca OIC summit (Dec. 12-14) saying: "50 countries produced 50 resolutions, and I had hoped for one resolution."

In reply, task force chairman and former Barbados Foreign Minister Brandford Tait said that the task force would "take His Highness' words to heart" and veer away from "doing business as usual."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday addresses members of the World Health Organisation task force meeting in Amman (Petra photo)

He reaffirmed the task force's dedication to the centrality of health, but added that its definition of health had altered.

"We are moving away from the clinical definition of health towards the political, social, economic and development aspects of it," Mr. Tait said.

He added that the task force was centring its activities around the human being, and he agreed with Prince Hassan on the need to follow up methodology which, he said, was sometimes a slow process, but "if the methodology was right, then the result would be right."

Mr. Tait said that the Kingdom had been chosen for this meeting because "Jordan has taken a lead role in focusing on the human condition."

The conference, held under the patronage of Crown Prince Hassan, has been attended by political leaders, development experts and economists from around the world who discussed ways to ensure that health is recognised as an indispensable component of development policies and that the centrality of health in social development is given due emphasis at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

Premier receives outgoing Pakistani envoy, new Norwegian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday received at his office Pakistani Ambassador Tariq Khan Afridi who paid a courtesy visit upon the occasion of his end of his tour of duty in the Kingdom.

Dr. Majali expressed Jordan's appreciation to Mr. Afridi for his efforts throughout his five-year tenure here in helping to advance relations between Jordan and Pakistan.

Ambassador Afridi leaves the Kingdom for his new post as Pakistan's envoy to Portugal.

Also Sunday, Dr. Majali received Tove Kijewski, Norway's newly-appointed ambassador to Jordan, and reviewed with her bilateral relations and other issues of mutual concern.

Mr. Kijewski, who assumed her post here in September, was most recently second-in-charge of the Norwegian embassy in Bonn, Germany. Her previous postings in the Arab World include Egypt and Kuwait.

The prime minister also met in his office with Sadek Ben Juma, member of the central committee of the ruling party in Tunisia to discuss bilateral ties.

Parliament speakers meet with Cuban minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Speakers Ahmad Al-Lawzi and Saad Hayel Srou Sunday separately received Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Gonzales and his accompanying delegation who are here on a several-day visit to Jordan.

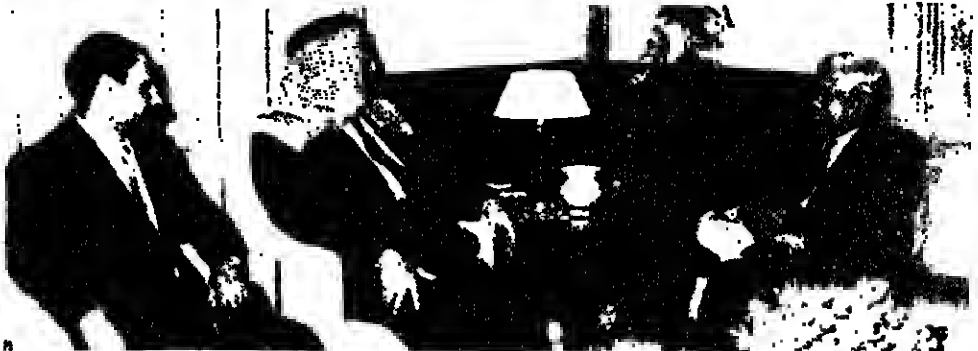
Mr. Lawzi briefed Mr. Gonzales on His Majesty King Hussein's role in establishing peace in the Middle East and serving humanitarian, political and economic causes around the world.

He also stressed Jordan's stands and endeavours to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations in parliamentary fields, underlining the need to enhance cooperation in economic and trade fields.

Mr. Lawzi also reviewed Jordan's democratisation process and the role of the legislative authority in supporting it. He outlined the mechanisms of work at the Parliament, the election process and strides in securing political pluralism.

At the meeting with the House speaker, discussion centred on economic and commercial ties by enhancing the role of the private sector in both Cuba and Jordan.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday receives visiting Malaysian Minister of Higher Education Suleiman Daoud. Also attending the meeting was Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud (Petra photo)

Majali, visiting Malaysian minister discuss higher education exchanges

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Malaysian Minister of Higher Education Suleiman Daoud Sunday began a five-day visit to Jordan by calling on Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to discuss scopes of cooperation in higher education sectors.

Dr. Majali said Jordan is keen to launch close cooperation between Malaysian and Jordanian universities and research centres.

Dr. Daoud will review with Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud, who also attended Sunday's meeting, cultural, scientific and academic exchanges. He will also visit the Kingdom's state universities and archaeological sites.

In a statement upon his arrival here at the head of an official delegation, Dr. Daoud said that he would discuss exchange of university faculty, researchers and scientists to promote higher education and enrich cultural cooperation. He said he will also discuss the equivalence of degrees awarded by the universities of either country and facilities for enabling students from Malaysia and Jordan to enroll at universities in the two countries.

Dr. Saoud told reporters that discussion will cover cultural exchanges noting that nearly 1100 Malaysian students are currently enrolled at Jordanian universities.

The minister said that Dr. Daoud will visit the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Muta University and Al al Bayt University where Malaysian students are currently enrolled.

Jordan observes Arab Police Day

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab Police Day was celebrated in Jordan Sunday with a major ceremony attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Udwan.

At the PSD Officers Club Lt. Gen. Udwan distributed merit certificates to retired PSD officers, journalists, families of martyrs and citizens who have helped the police solve crimes this past year.

The PSD director also distributed trophies to leaders of police units who scored highest in the annual inspection procedures and decorated several officers with medals in recognition of their distinguished efforts in the line of duty.

Major General Hashem Qaisi addressed the gathering and outlined the development of the security force, noting the great achievements of the police force since the 1920s.

According to Maj. Gen. Qaisi, "peace in the region will enhance development and stability in the Kingdom."

He also said the crime rate in Jordan is considered low. "Crime is a shadow that threatens every citizen in our society, but we are confident with our system we can protect people and secure their safety," he added.

Major General Sami Saket, a retired PSD officer, delivered a speech on behalf of the pensioned officers, saying that the rapid advancement of the society and the critical stage the Kingdom now faces requires that the country's security systems "cope and adjust to these changes."

According to Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat, director of public relations at the PSD, the celebration was a good opportunity "to look back at what we have accomplished and to look for ways to improve our police work to serve our community."

Col. Obeidat also said that this is the day to remember the people who have dedicated their lives in working for the police force.

France initials JD 12m loan-grant protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — France has initialled a protocol granting Jordan a total of 96 million francs (JD 12,212,800) of which about JD one million will be in the form of a grant.

According to Nahil Ammari, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning who led a Jordanian team to negotiate the aid and the loan, the rest of the sum will be paid over 20 years with a 10-year repayment grace period.

Dr. Ammari, who was speaking Sunday following his return from France, said he negotiated the aid with the French Ministry of Economy and reached an initial agreement.

The sum assigned for loan will be used to finance water, telecommunications, civil aviation and other development schemes in Jordan and the grant will be used primarily to finance studies related to the development of the water and irrigation sectors in the Kingdom, according to Dr. Ammari.

French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajollet told the Jordan Times Sunday that the loan bears a one per cent interest and the total sum could be available to Jordan as soon as formal contracts in this connection have been signed.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FRANCO-ARAB CINEMA FESTIVAL
★ Film entitled "The Extras" (Syria 1993) at Cinema Concorde at 8:30 p.m.

FILMS
★ Film in French entitled "Sans Toit Ni Loi" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
★ Film (in English) entitled "15th Century: Renaissance in Full Bloom" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Fann at 5:30 p.m.

CHOIR
★ Choir by the Baptist community at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE
★ Lecture entitled "Preliminary Results of the Polla Blisterland Survey" by Dr. Pamela Watson at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY
★ Bani Hamida Christmas Display with a variety of small gift items at Bani Hamida House, Jabel Amman, First Circle, Rainbow Street.

EXHIBITIONS
★ Plastic art exhibition by Laila Kawash at the Royal Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of paintings on leather by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabbab at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
★ Painting and water colours exhibition by Suhail Ma'touq at Baladna Art Gallery.
★ Art exhibition by Ammar Khammash and Fuad Mimi at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

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ANC weaknesses under spotlight

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (AFP) — Serious problems in the ruling African National Congress could hamper its ability to govern effectively, a report released at the ANC's three-yearly conference here Sunday says.

The hard-hitting report, by ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa, says the party lacks decisive leadership, has a grave shortage of funds and is out of touch with its grassroots supporters.

Among the problems is the "continual reliance" on ANC President Nelson Mandela to do the organising.

The report was to be debated behind closed doors Sunday by some 2,700 delegates to the conference, the ANC's 49th since it was formed in this Orange Free State provincial capital in 1912.

The meeting also marks the first ANC thinktank since

it swept to power in historic all-race elections in April.

"Despite our immense success in the election, we have serious shortcomings at many levels," Mr. Ramaphosa says in the report.

He says ANC leaders are indecisive, fail to respond promptly to crises and are reluctant to enforce discipline.

Senior officials are overloaded with work, he adds, while the ANC's affirmative action policy relating to women has failed.

"There is an over-reliance on a few key women leaders," Mr. Ramaphosa says.

The problem has been exacerbated by key ANC members moving into government positions.

In his opening address to the conference Saturday, Mr. Mandela was sharply critical of ANC organisation and finances.

"Ours was not a planned entry into government," Mr. Mandela said. "We were disorganised and behaved in a manner that could have endangered the revolution."

He said the party's financial state was a "matter of serious concern" and called for the elimination of wastage and an end to the "lack of financial discipline."

Mr. Ramaphosa's report embroiled on the theme, bemoaning the poor state of organisation in branches and regions and complaining of fiscal indiscretions.

It says sources of finance have dried up since the election and that the ANC Youth and Women's Leagues "do not adhere to financial controls."

"Unless we address these problems, we will continue sliding into the low morale in which some of our militants are," he says, referring to disillusioned ANC soldiers

who have deserted the South African National Defence Force in Doves.

Unless branches are re-suscitated and problems tackled, Mr. Ramaphosa adds, the ANC will battle to win municipal elections due at the end of 1995.

According to delegates, Mr. Ramaphosa received thunderous applause when he presented the report.

The conference is expected to spend Sunday debating the report before tackling 10 other items on the agenda, including the preparation of South Africa's final constitution, the economy, the rampant crime ravaging the country and the role of women.

During the four-day conference, which has as its theme "From Resistance to Reconstruction and National Building," the ANC will also renew its 50-member Executive Committee.

Clinton may not have been target of shots

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials said Saturday that the bullets found on the White House grounds after gunfire erupted near the mansion may not have been aimed at President Bill Clinton.

Up to six shots, most likely from a semi-automatic handgun, were fired from the nearby Ellipse, a grassy field across the street from the rear of the White House, in the pre-dawn hours Saturday, according to law enforcement officials.

Two spent 9mm bullets, one of which was found on the first-floor balcony and the other on a driveway, were later recovered.

Secret Service spokesman Carl Meyer said the bullets were found in good shape, indicating they had travelled some distance and not hit anything.

Law enforcement officials said four spent 9mm bullets, believed to have been fired from the same weapon, were recovered in good condition, indicating to investigators that they had travelled a long distance.

One round landed on the first-floor balcony of the White House, one floor below the family living quarters, and another was found on the South Lawn driveway, said Secret Service spokes-



Two uniformed U.S. Secret Service agents search the grounds behind the White House with metal detectors for evidence after shots were fired at the White House. Witnesses reported hearing four to six shots fired from the Ellipse and one bullet was found on the grounds near the South Porch (AFP photo)

man Dave Adams.

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified sources, said another penetrated a window of the state dining room on the first floor.

Vice President Al Gore said it could well be that the shots were not directed at Mr. Clinton or his family, who were asleep in the White House at the time.

"I received a briefing that indicated a distinct possibility that it was not in any way

related to the president," Mr. Gore told reporters in Atlanta.

"We are exploring the possibility that this was just a couple of stray bullets that came in," Mr. Meyer said earlier in the day when only two bullets had been found. Washington has a reputation as a violent

The incident raised anew serious concerns about the level of safety at the White House.

Claudia Schiffer wants to jog with Clinton

BONN (R) — German supermodel Claudia Schiffer wants to go jogging with U.S. President Bill Clinton, market movie star Paul Newman's barbecue sauce and stroll through an art gallery with gun-swinging action hero Sylvester Stallone.

Laying out her plans for a German television chat show she is due to start hosting in the spring, Schiffer said in an interview that she would not bore viewers with ordinary questions and answers sessions.

"Instead of having an ordinary interview with Paul Newman, I would cook with him," she told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* daily. "Or I would ask Bill Clinton questions while we jog. Sylvester Stallone is very interested in art, so I could browse through an art gallery with him." Schiffer, whose modelling career began at 17, said she was most interested in the men behind the faces than in their work. "I'm no political expert," she said when asked what sort of questions she would ask the American president. "I might talk to him (Clinton), for example, about the health insurance system. I would ask Sylvester Stallone what his favourite movies are. I might ask Paul Newman to reveal his recipe to German viewers who don't know his barbecue sauce. The super model, said to earn thousands of dollars a day and who speaks fluent French and English in addition to her native German, said the secret of her success was not her stunning good looks. "Beauty alone won't take you to the top of modelling, just as little as it can take you to the top of the list of Hollywood stars," she said. "Professionalism, discipline and a lot of energy are also needed."

Time chooses Pope as Man of the Year

NEW YORK (R) — Time magazine has announced it had selected Pope John Paul II as its Man of the Year saying he had "forcefully set forth his vision of the good life and urged the world to follow it."

The publication said he had pursued his vision in a year when many lamented a decline in moral values and used the influence of his office to speak out and further his aims.

"For such rectitude — or recklessness as his detractors would have it — he is Time magazine's 1994 Man of the Year."

Few of his predecessors over the past 2,000 years have spoken from it as often and as forcefully as he," the

magazine said.

In his effort to cast his message wider Time noted that he had this year published his meditations *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*.

Time cited as an example of the pontiff's ability to impose his will the defeat of a U.S. backed proposition at the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo last September.

Because the Pope feared the measure would encourage abortions the Vatican successfully intervened to defeat it, the magazine said.

It said critics are predicting catastrophic consequences for the world's population as a result but noted "the Pon-

tiff was unfazed by the widespread opprobrium."

Pursuing his goal of clarifying his church's doctrine Time said the Pope had seen the Vatican issue "catechism of the Catholic Church."

It called the catechism "the first such comprehensive document issued since the 16th century, and perhaps the most enduring landmark of John Paul's papacy."

Time editors have selected a Man of the Year since 1927 when it picked Charles A. Lindbergh. Despite the title the magazine has sometimes selected women and last year it selected four "peace-makers", F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin.

Thai king endorses cabinet reshuffle

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai secured a political victory Sunday with the official announcement that monarch King Bhumibol Adulyadej had endorsed a cabinet reshuffle that guarantees him a majority in parliament.

The endorsement, which state television said took place Saturday, made official the eleventh-hour compromise between Mr. Chuan's administration and the Chart Pattana Party, previously the second-largest member of the opposition.

Under the new cabinet list, the government retains 201 seats in the House, out of a total of 360.

The Chart Pattana inherits 14 cabinet seats, replacing the New Aspiration Party (NAP) which split from the coalition.

There were no deviations from the proposed reshuffle list, in which the Democrats shifted four of their own seats.

As expected, Saeon Kachornprasart, the secretary-general of Mr. Chuan's Democrat Party, received the powerful interior minister post, replacing Chaovalit Yongchaiyudh.

Mr. Chaovalit, the leader of the NAP, challenged — and helped defeat — a government vote on Dec. 8 on constitutional amendments which would have limited his authority over local officials.

He defected to the opposition the next day, leading most analysts to predict Mr. Chuan would dissolve parliament and call for snap elections.

But Mr. Chuan's Democrats managed a last-minute compromise with the Chart Pattana Party in what political observers called a marriage of convenience.

Part of the agreement included the Agriculture Ministry, which the Democrats gave up in order to take over the Interior Ministry.

Rao warns of purge in ruling party

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has warned of a purge to revitalise the ruling Congress Party, reeling under election losses inflicted by corruption charges, disaffection and infighting, news reports said Sunday.

"Those opportunists who want to use the Congress as a puppet to further their interests should quit the party," the *United News of India* (UNI) quoted Mr. Rao as telling party workers Saturday at Pune in the western state of Maharashtra.

"The rot has to go and it will purify the Congress," the news agency quoted him as saying.

Maharashtra is one of the five states scheduled to vote in February. The Congress Party lost in three of the four states that elected new assemblies this month.

Mr. Rao, whose party lost crucial elections in the southern states of Karnataka and his native Andhra Pradesh, called upon party workers to learn from the defeat and criticised senior aides for their negative attitude.

Factional fighting and sabotage in the Congress have been cited widely as a major reason for the southern debacle.

Congress deputies say Mr. Rao is waiting for the end of the current parliament session later this week before beginning a purge because parliamentary custom demands that reshuffles are not made when a session is on.

"In Delhi, even some of those who sit beside us indulge in criticism out of considerations of a personal nature," the daily *Pioneer* quoted Mr. Rao as saying at Baramati in Maharashtra.

His statement came after Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh, widely believed to be a challenger to Mr. Rao, and senior party leader Narain Dutt Tiwari, called for more populist, poor-oriented policies.

The regional Telugu Desam Party (TDP) won in Andhra Pradesh by promising subsidised rice.

Mr. Rao, who launched a radical, free-market-oriented economic reform programme in 1991, says he will not do anything that will threaten the country's finances and fiscal stability.

The opposition says the reforms are elitist. Party dissidents echo the feelings.

Some 22 junior ministers offered to quit this week to give Mr. Rao, who also heads the party, a free hand for a clean-up.

"Unless responsibility is fixed and heads roll, the credibility of the government and the democratic system is at stake," Chandrajit Yadav of the Socialist Samta Party told Reuters.

Mr. Rao is being embarrassed by his Food Minister Kalp Nath Rai after an investigation report blamed Mr. Rai and government agencies last week for mismanaging

the nation's sugar buffer, resulting in a rise in home and world prices.

Mr. Rao swears loyalty and has offered to quit but simultaneously says he is innocent and will defend himself.

Two other aides, Health Minister B. Shankaranand and Junior Rural Development Minister Rameshwar Thakur, received critical remarks from a parliamentary committee that probed a \$1.2-billion securities scandal that surfaced in 1992.

The opposition has been baying for their heads, and that of Mr. Rao.

Civil Supplies Minister A.K. Antony resigned last week after a parliamentary statement identified him as having erred in the management of sugar prices.

His resignation has not been accepted officially, but Mr. Rao has been hinting that others follow suit.

Mr. Rao has often been accused of soft-peddling political issues within the party and outside, even as he unleashed radical economic changes.

"I have told him many times: 'You must do things which are seen to be good,' a party lawmaker, who declined to be named, told Reuters. 'He has always been indecisive.'"

February's election will mean another acid test for Mr. Rao. The next general election, scheduled for early 1996, would only be a year away from then.

Italy's top graft-buster ties the knot

CURNO, Italy (R) — Antonio Di Pietro, the magistrate turned folk hero for his probes that helped topple Italy's old ruling class, has got married, Italian newspapers said Saturday. Di Pietro, 44, who resigned in Dec. 6 following tensions between his "clean hands" team of magistrates and the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, married Susanna Mazzoleni in a private ceremony, the paper said. The magistrate and Ms. Mazzoleni, 41, a lawyer, were married at their villa in the town of Curno, outside Milan. The two have been together for ten years and have two children Anna, 8, and Antonio, 3.

Dwarfs refuse to kiss Snow White

LONDON (R) — Two hapless dwarfs in a traditional British Christmas show have refused to kiss Snow White, forcing the director to rewrite the script. Two six-year-old boys playing dwarfs in a production of *Snow White* at a theatre in South Shields, in northeast England, refused point blank to kiss the 20-year-old star, Victoria Arlitt. "I didn't realise the prospect of giving me a peck would horrify them so much," she told reporters.

"When they were told to kiss me, their little faces crumpled and they burst into tears," Producer John Blackman said. "The dwarfs say they are lads and lads don't kiss ladies." Productions of *Snow White*, a traditional favourite in the British pantomime (Christmas Festival) season have been hit this year by a shortage of adult dwarfs.

300 passengers have to miss out on QE2 cruise

LONDON (R) — Three hundred passengers will miss out on a cruise on the luxury British liner QE2 because their cabins were not finished in time after a £3 million (\$4.6 million) refurbishment. Owner Cunard blamed British sub-contractors for the problems.

Spokesman Eric Houlders said: "We found that some of the cabins were in an unsatisfactory condition. Clearly, there will be a lot of disappointment and we will do our best to redress it," he told reporters. Cunard told 300 passengers they could not join the trip to New York as about 100 of the 950 cabins were not ready. Workmen will now stay on board the 27-year liner and finish the work as the QE2 cruises that Atlantic to New York.

Beijing urges British cooperation on Hong Kong pact's anniversary

BEIJING (AFP) — China urged Britain Sunday to set aside disputes and cooperate on Hong Kong's future ahead of the 10th anniversary of an historic pact governing the prosperous colony's return to Chinese rule in 1997.

The officials also reiterated vows to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle allowing Hong Kong to retain its free-wheeling capitalist economy, despite bitter rows with London over democratic reforms and other issues.

Vice Premier Qian Qichen, in a speech commemorating the Joint Declaration of Dec. 19, 1984, said "it is my sincere hope that the two countries will reduce their conflicts, increase mutual trust and enhance cooperation."

"I believe that China and Britain will be able to cooperate on this fundamental issue. But that does not mean that there will be no conflicts or

problems," said Mr. Qian, who is also foreign minister.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted him as saying that Sino-British cooperation was an "important factor" for a smooth transition "but the most important thing is to rely on our own forces."

The Joint Declaration guarantees continuity in Hong Kong for another 50 years under the so-called Special Administrative Region (SAR).

But efforts by Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten to introduce democratic reforms to the colony before 1997 have inflamed Beijing, leading to the rupture of negotiations on the future of Hong Kong.

China has since announced that all political structures in the colony will be dismantled and a committee charged with installing the future Hong Kong adminis-

trative system.

Lu Ping, Beijing's highest official in charge of Hong Kong and Macau, a Portuguese colony reverting to Chinese rule in 1999, said that the "one country, two systems" idea was China's long-term state policy, "not an expedient measure."

He criticised London for departing from the spirit of the Joint Declaration. Xinhua said, but welcomed its pledges of cooperation

Disputes over Hong Kong's new airport and other infrastructure projects spanning the handover have also soured ties between Beijing and London.

The 31st meeting of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLG) ended in London Friday with British efforts to gain China's approval of contracts for a huge container terminal looking hopelessly stalled.

Rwanda slows plan to close camps

KIGALI (R) — The Rwandan government appears to have accepted U.N. pressure to delay its plans to close all refugee camps in the southwest of the country by the end of December.

This follows a large-scale operation by the United Nations last week to search two of the camps to round up militants who have been terrorising the refugees there.

The operation produced few results, apparently because the militants had fled before the U.N. sweep began.

The United Nations' special representative in Rwanda, Ambassador Shaharyar Khan, said in Kigali Sunday the government would no longer insist on the closure of the camps by the end of the year. Instead they had agreed to a two-month programme, as proposed by the United Nations.

Mr. Khan told Reuters last week's operation aimed to halt an increase in violence in the camps, which had been in danger of falling into the pattern of refugee camps around Goma, in neighbouring Zaire, where extremists rule through terror.

He said the aim had not been to persuade the government to delay what the United Nations regarded as a hurried closure plan.

But he welcomed the Rwandan government's acceptance of Operation Retour — the United Nations' gradual closure programme.

The government had said it wanted to close down the camps by the end of the year to end a growing security problem.

The camps were set up in May and June to provide

shelter for fleeing Hutus as the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) stepped up its military campaign against the Hutu-led government following genocide killings of Tutsis in April.

Hundreds of thousands took shelter in a safe zone established by French troops. Despite the subsequent withdrawal of the French force, most of the Hutus stayed in the camps, fearing RPF vengeance for the slaughter of Tutsis and moderate Hutus that followed the assassination of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana.

The forced closure of other camps in the former safe zone had drawn international criticism. Mr. Khan said the government realised it should not risk attracting more opprobrium from a world still suspicious of the new rulers.

Over 1,500 U.N. peacekeepers marched into Kibeho and Ndago early last Wednesday hoping to seize thugs terrorising the estimated 140,000 inhabitants.

A day-long search netted 47 suspects — four were later released through lack of evidence — and more than 1,300 weapons, mainly machetes and other blades, a poor haul for such a large operation.

None of the grenades and small arms sighted earlier in the camp were seized, and the United Nations admits the militant ringleaders had bolted before the peacekeepers went in.

"The operation was too big to have the benefit of surprise," Mr. Khan told Reuters. "If we do another sweep it should be on a smaller scale to maintain the element of surprise."

"But even if the gang lead-

ers got away, the camps are now free of their influence. If they go to other camps then we will clear them out."

Meanwhile, a batch of 120 Japanese soldiers returned home Sunday after a three-month humanitarian mission in Rwanda. Japan's first military-supported aid operation under national command since World War II.

Another contingent of 140 troops are due to leave the Zairean town of Goma — where they have assisted Rwandan refugees — Tuesday and will arrive in Japan Friday officials here said.

Their mission had been defined as strictly humanitarian, mainly providing support for a vaccination programme and water supply, as Japan's post-World War II constitution bans the use of force in settling international conflicts.

Japan previously sent military personnel to Cambodia and Mozambique, but both operations were under the auspices of the United Nations.

The 260 Japanese troops, who had little overseas experience, completed their mission amid fears of contagion diseases and security problems as well as the possibility of volcanic eruptions.

"I feel relieved after coming back safe and sound," 38-year-old medic Norio Fukuda told reporters after the 120-strong team arrived at Tokyo's Narita International Airport on a commercial flight.

"I was shocked to see a boy, who looked as old as my own son, carrying his younger brother on his back," he said.

Clinton ends bad year but worst may be ahead

WASHINGTON (R) — At the halfway mark of his turbulent first term as America's president, Bill Clinton is on the political critical list because of official bungling, slumping polls and the Republican takeover of Congress.

But many analysts agree with democratic representative Pat Schroeder's brutally frank assessment of Mr. Clinton's prospects. "I don't think I would declare him dead just yet," she said in a recent interview on the cable channel CNBC.

Indeed, Mr. Clinton has already launched an effort to bounce back from the terrible year he had in 1994 with his call for \$60 billion in tax relief for the country's vast middle class.

He has also announced a \$25 billion increase in Pentagon spending and banned funding for fertility research on embryos created for research purposes to head off conservative criticism.

These initiatives came near the close of a year from hell that saw Mr. Clinton chalk up only two significant legislative accomplishments — passage of a crime bill and a measure to implement the new GATT world trade agreement.

They hardly sufficed to hide his embarrassments, which included the collapse

of his top priority push for health care reform and the Republican rampage in the Nov. 8 elections.

In what amounted to a vote of no confidence in Democrat Clinton, who campaigned strenuously for a different outcome, Americans gave Republicans control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years.

They also put most governors' offices in Republican hands, a potentially lethal blow to Mr. Clinton's reelection chances because it will deny him a lot of ready-made political organisation for his expected bid for a second term.

So what went so badly wrong with a presidency that began with such bright promise in 1992? And what are Mr. Clinton's prospects for recovery?

"He forgot the nature of the '92 election. The first thing he forgot was that he won only 43 per cent of the vote and behaved as if he'd won 53 per cent or 63 per cent," said David Rohde, a political expert.

Mr. Clinton "put forward a very large agenda, a very ambitious agenda and an agenda which was not responsive to the people who did not vote for him," Mr. Rohde said.

The president's domestic

political miscalculations were compounded by a string of foreign policy setbacks in Bosnia that marred successes in Haiti, North Korea and Latin America.

He was also damaged by cascading developments in the probe of business dealings in his Arkansas past, known as Whitewater, and a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by a Little Rock woman named Paula Jones.

As 1993 drew to a close, Mr. Clinton's job approval rating was lower than that of any other recent president at an equivalent point except Ronald Reagan, whose poll numbers sank even lower during the 1982 recession.

In a bid to win back the support of working Americans who deserted the Democrats in the mid-term elections, Mr. Clinton will make passage of a "middle class bill of rights" his main focus in 1995.

The centrepiece is a set of tax cuts tailored to help the broad middle class with child care, home-buying, college tuition, elder-care and medical expenses.

"I challenge the new Congress to work with me to enact a middle class bill of rights without adding to the deficit and without any new cuts in social security or Medicare," Mr. Clinton said.

"I don't know how that

works for Bill Clinton," said Cal Mackenzie, a CNBC College political analyst. "He's going to end up in a position of either having to sign a bill that has 'Republican' stamped all over it, or vetoing a bill because it's too expensive and he has to do the responsible thing."

Political analysts of all stripes said that while Mr. Clinton was in difficult straits, it was too early to write him off.

James MacGregor Burns, a noted historian and biographer of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, said the occupant of the Oval Office "always has a lot of resources to fall back on."

"The president has his ability to use the bully pulpit he has appointments he can make and he has the veto," he said.

If history repeats itself, the 1996 presidential election will be a cliffhanger — that's what happened after lopsided mid-term elections shocked and dismayed the party in control of the White House in 1940, 1958, 1966 and 1974.

And Mr. Burns sees a stand-off between Clinton and the new Republican majority in Congress in the meantime.

"Nobody is going to control the agenda. We're going to have a lot more deadlock, a lot more gridlock," he said



AWAITING THE RUSSIANS: Chechen away. The boom of the artillery resounded volunteers in the town of Pervomayskaya around the Chechen capital of Grozny Sunday, (some 20 kilometres north of Grozny) stand on one hour after the expiry of the Russian deadline for the rebel regime to lay down its arms (AFP photo)

Strike cripples Karachi; 6 killed

KARACHI (AFP) — Six people died and 15 were wounded as state troops and other gunmen opened fire Sunday during a strike here by a militant sectarian party that crippled Pakistan's troubled commercial capital, witnesses said.

The paramilitary troops opened fire in a predominantly Shiite residential area, leaving three dead and at least five injured, witnesses and hospital sources said. It was not immediately clear why the Rangers fired.

Three others were killed and at least 10 people were injured when gunmen fired from moving cars to force people off the roads, witnesses said.

The strike was called by the Sunni Muslim group Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) to protest the failure by police to arrest the killers of eight people, including the chief of SSP, in a mosque attack on Dec. 7.

All major markets and bazaars remained closed and traffic on the streets was negligible.

A second strike was called by Transporters Associations to protest the burning of more than three dozen vehicles during a wave of violence here over the past few days.

A few state-owned buses on the streets, but most offices reported low attendance. Sunday is a working day in Karachi.

The Karachi Stock Exchange closed early as there was no trading on the floor, brokers said.

Port activity was also affected. Less than five per cent of the port and customs staff were present.

Berlusconi's political life on the line

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's political life was on the line Sunday as he prepared to face three no-confidence motions planned by the opposition and a major coalition ally later in the week.

Political commentators were pessimistic about Mr. Berlusconi's future, saying the numbers were stacked against him, but worried about what could replace his government if he lost.

The main threat to Mr. Berlusconi comes from the federalist Northern League government party, which will present its motion together with the centrist opposition Popular Party.

The League has some 105 of the coalition's 366 seats in the 630-member Chamber of Deputies (lower house).

It can also count on most of the opposition, including the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), which, in coordination with the League will present its own motion.

"We've done it. The little dictator will fall on Thursday," La Repubblica newspaper quoted League leader Umberto Bossi as saying after he decided to present the motion.

"A man with no confidence," was the headline in La Voce newspaper over a picture of Berlusconi, his head inclined and face hidden by two clenched fists.

The most likely day for the vote is Thursday, after the 1995 budget is passed and a debate on Mr. Berlusconi's coalition is held.

For good measure, the Marxist Communist reformation party has announced a no-confidence vote in the Senate (upper house).

The motions are the crowning of the league's bid to topple billionaire Berlusconi, who swept to power at the head of a conservative "Freedom Alliance" in general elections last March.

They follow months of argument between the League and the two other main coalition members, Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) and the hard right national alliance.

Mr. Berlusconi's credibility has been further undermined by an ongoing row with Milan magistrates who are investigating him over allegations of corruption he denies.

Mr. Berlusconi has branded the moves to oust him as a swindle. He says there must be new elections if he is ousted.

His most loyal ally, National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini, was far from optimistic about the outcome of the vote.

"Overcoming those challenges will be difficult," he told Corriere Della Sera newspaper. "But it will be equally hard to set up a new majority in parliament and those who are preparing the motions are cranking up the machiavelli for new elections."

A Corriere editorial said

Bulgarians place hopes in new poll

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarians voted Sunday for their third parliament since the collapse of the Communist regime, hoping it would stop infighting and concentrate on raising living standards.

Almost 50 political parties, led by big former Communist and anti-Communist blocs, are competing for the votes of an electorate disillusioned by a democracy riven with political squabbles and organised crime.

A few hours after polling booths opened, the Central Electoral Commission issued a warning to voters not to use fake or old ballot papers after it was discovered that party activists had been handing them out.

"One should not vote with unofficial ballot papers, including those from previous elections or home-made ballot papers," Commission spokeswoman Ralitsa Negestova said in a statement broadcast on state radio.

The radio said earlier irregular ballot papers had emerged "in many places" but Ms. Negestova said that there were no major infringements of the law. The commission was not immediately available for further comment.

Despite disappointment at a sharp drop in living standards over the past year, voting was brisk and there was some optimism as polls opened on a chilly but bright winter morning.

"This time I dropped my ballot in the box full of hope, much more than in 1991 because this time things have reached the edge when we will either disappear or survive," said Elena Dodova, 35, voting in Lozenets, a smart district of Sofia.

But Interim Prime Minister Reneta Indzhova was cynical about the election, which is being held a year early due to a parliamentary deadlock between the main political forces.

"I see a tremendous gap between the interest of the people and that which politicians are doing for them," she said as she voted in a suburb of the capital.

Donka Shishkova, headmistress of Sofia's School 49, told Philip Dimitrov, leader of the anti-Communist Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), that she hoped the school would get more attention if he became prime minister.

Asked for his expectations for the poll, Mr. Dimitrov said the only sensible result would be a UDF victory.

"Anything else would be very and very bad for Bulgaria and I think we have no grounds to expect such a thing," he told Reuters.

Mr. Dimitrov disputes opinion polls which indicate that the Socialists could end up again as the biggest party in parliament, benefitting from disappointment with

N. Korea promises U.S. details on helicopter

SEOUL (R) — North Korea Sunday promises the U.S.-led United Nations command it would provide details on the two American pilots whose helicopter was forced down to the Communist state, the command said.

The promise, given in a meeting between representatives of the command and the North Korean army at the Korean border village of Panmunjom, coincided with U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson's meeting with top Communist officials in Pyongyang.

"The (North) Korean People's Army representatives to Panmunjom said information concerning the incident, including the condition and location of the two pilots, will be made available once the KPA has completed its investigation into the incident," a command statement said.

A U.S. military spokesman said another meeting has been scheduled for Monday.

"A meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow but right now no time is known," he said.

The United States has been pressuring North Korea for details on the OH-58 helicopter and the pilots since shortly after it went down three to four miles (four to seven kilometres) north of the demilitarised zone (DMZ) in the eastern sector of the Korean border Saturday morning.

U.S. officials said it was unclear whether the unarmed craft, which they say strayed over the border on a routine training mission, made an emergency landing or was shot down.

North Korea Sunday repeated a statement that it shot down a U.S. helicopter intruding into its territory and that the pilots were being questioned about the intrusion.

Democratic Representative Richardson, who arrived in Pyongyang shortly after the incident on a previously scheduled trip, had talks with Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam and other senior figures, the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

A spokesman for Mr. Richardson, who is a personal friend of President Bill Clinton, said in Washington earlier that the Congressman sought "immediate access" to the two pilots and stressed that failure to return them "would have a serious impact on U.S.-North Korean relations."

Stu Nagurka, Mr. Richardson's spokesman, said the issue was "at the top of his agenda."

KCNA said Mr. Richardson also met Yang Hyong-Sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and Hwang Jang-Yop, chairman of the assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission. It gave no details of their talks.

The United States has expressed "very serious concerns" to North Korea about the fate of the two pilots, identified by the Pentagon as Army Chief Warrant Officers David Hilemoo of Clarksville, Tennessee, and Bobby Hall of Brooksville, Florida.

In Washington, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Saturday that Secretary of State Warren Christopher had contacted the North Korean mission to the United Nations in New York to express concern for the safety of the pilots.

"We have indicated very serious concerns to the North Koreans about the welfare of these pilots. We want them returned," Mr. Panetta said in a television interview.

The United States has asked North Korea for a meeting at Panmunjom to discuss the return of the pilots.

Frosty relations between the United States and North Korea had recently warmed following Pyongyang's agreement to abandon its current nuclear reactors with less threatening power sources.

Earlier this year the United States and North Korea were on the brink of confrontation over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme and its refusal to let U.N. experts inspect its nuclear sites.

The signing in October of the agreement for North Korea to freeze its graphite-

moderate reactors helped alleviate tension.

The United States, which promised to deliver safer nuclear reactors costing \$4 billion, has been holding talks with the North over setting up liaison offices in each other's capitals as a first step toward normalising relations.

The straying into North Korea of the U.S. helicopter was the latest in a string of incidents underscoring the tensions on the Korean peninsula.

North and South Korea have lived in uneasy truce across the demilitarised zone (DMZ), a four-kilometre wide strip of no man's land that divides the two Koreas since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Frequent clashes along the border have taken more than 50 American and 1,000 South Korean lives since the 1953 armistice halted the war.

North Korea shot down a U.S. CH-47 helicopter in July 1977, killing three people and injuring one on board. The bodies and the surviving crewmen were returned three days later.

Also in 1969 two North Korean MiGs shot down a USN Ex-121 reconnaissance aircraft off the Northern east coast, killing 31 Americans.

The worst year was 1968, which witnessed a total of 162 U.S. and South Korean military officers killed and 294 injured in 181 separate incidents.

On Jan. 21, 1968, 29 North Koreans were killed and one captured when they intruded into Seoul in an attempt to assassinate former President Park Chung-Hee.

Two days later, a U.S. navy vessel, the Pueblo, with 84 seamen aboard was seized by North Korea in international waters off the peninsula's east coast. Nearly 11 months later, 82 crew members were released.

On Aug. 18, 1976 North Korean soldiers axed to death two U.S. military officers, presiding an "overgrown tree" in the truce village of Panmunjom.

The Stalinist state keeps about one million men under arms, some 60 per cent of them deployed near the border with the South, the United States has 37,000 troops in South Korea.

"Apart from these attacks, shootings along the border are quite frequent," said a U.S. military spokesman.

The latest serious shooting incident occurred in May 1992 when three North Korean troops were killed and two South Korean soldiers were injured after a group of North Koreans entered the southern part of the DMZ.

In Panmunjom in late 1984, the defection of a former Soviet Union tour guide triggered a gun battle in which three Northern soldiers and one from the South died.

EU to allow foreigners to vote in local elections

BRUSSELS (R) — Not without a struggle, the European Union is about to allow its citizens to vote or run in local elections no matter where they live.

A new law expected to be adopted by EU foreign ministers Monday could lead to a French mayor being elected in Denmark or to Greeks voting for a municipal councillor in Britain.

Under the proposal, EU citizens living in any of the Union's member states would be allowed to vote for local political posts where they live and to run for office there too.

It is a right to the right granted to EU citizens to vote locally for members of the European Parliament, the EU's only directly elected body.

But while granting the right to vote for a Euro-MP was relatively easy for members states, national governments have been less enamoured with the plan, embodied in the Maastricht Treaty, to open local voter rolls to outsiders.

France, Luxembourg and Belgium have succeeded in getting exemptions attached to the law, each designed to avoid giving too much power to expatriate EU citizens.

In Luxembourg, where more than 20 per cent of the population comes from elsewhere — mainly Portugal and Italy — outsiders will have to be residents for six years before getting the vote.

Expatriates will also not be allowed to create candidate lists under Luxembourg's proportional representation system.

In France, non-French EU voters will not be allowed to vote for mayor on the grounds that French mayors have certain law enforcement powers.

Nor, if elected to a relevant local post, will they be allowed to help choose French senators, a task currently carried out by some local officials.

In Belgium, meanwhile, there are fears that letting foreigners vote for local officials could shake the fragile

French-Dutch language balance that is the basis of the country's political system.

Thousands of non-Belgian EU nationals, living in the area because of EU institutions, reside in Dutch-speaking communes, or districts, surrounding Brussels.

Nearly all of them speak French. Very few speak Dutch.

If they were to be given the vote, officials in the communes fear, they would be likely to vote for French-speaking officials, threatening the hold of the Dutch-speakers on their traditional communes.

The result is an exemption saying that in any commune where the non-Belgian population is greater than 20 per cent, foreigners will have had to be resident for six years before being entitled to vote.

Some European Commission officials have hinted they may challenge the exemptions before the European Court of Justice.

Meanwhile, European Union fisheries ministers will meet Monday to try to resolve a dispute over fishing rights.

EU leaders meeting in Essen, Germany, earlier this month ordered fisheries ministers to sort out the row — over access for Spanish and Portuguese fishermen to the Union's Western waters — by the end of the year.

Apathy grips mayoral poll in Slovenia

LIJUBLJANA (AFP) — Voter apathy stamped itself on the second round of Slovenia's mayoral elections Sunday, as just 18.6 per cent of the registered 1.5 million voters bothered to cast their ballots Sunday morning in a poll likely to give a thumbs-down to Premier Janez Drnovsek.

The turnout at 11:00 a.m. (1000 GMT) was four per cent down on turnout at the same stage in the first round on Dec. 4, the Electoral Commission said.

Commission officials said many Slovenians had taken advantage of a perfect winter's day to go skiing in the Kranjska Gora or Planica Mountains north of Ljubljana.

In the first municipal elections since Slovenia gained independence in 1991, turnout at the end of the first round was 60 per cent, leaving Mr. Drnovsek's ruling coalition looking for an improvement Sunday.

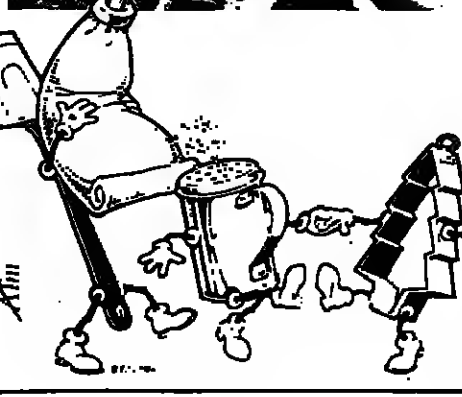
In the opening round, Mr. Drnovsek's centre-left Liberal Democratic Party slumped to 17.2 per cent, down from 23.5 per cent in the 1992 general election.

The party's base is shared by the other leftist party in the three-party coalition, the former communist United List, which was fighting to maintain its 13.5 per cent share of the vote.

The conservative Christian Democrats, also in the coalition, were meanwhile looked forward to consolidating their increased 18 per cent share of the vote, up from 14.5 per cent in the general election.

Overall, the first round gains went to the right-wing parties. The opposition Social Democratic Party was the biggest winner from the first round, gaining 14 per cent against its 3.5 per cent showing in 1992.

The Agrarian Popular Party also increased its share, from 8.7 per cent to 12 per cent.



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Unions in identity game

ONE OF the controversial issues being widely debated in the country is whether trade and professional associations are departing from the purposes and objectives for which they have been established, concentrating instead on playing a game, not theirs, which is politics. There is nothing in our constitution and laws that deprives citizens, including unions and professionals, of discussing politics or taking political stands and participating fully in the democratic process. On the other hand, the exploitation of labour unions, professional associations, clubs and societies, by using them as platforms for launching political attacks on the country's policies could be frowned at here as indeed in other countries. It can be well argued that these unions and the like are formed and licensed simply to conduct the basic business of their members for the purpose of protecting their interests and improving their work conditions. It is a common experience in advanced democracies that trade and professional associations pronounce themselves on domestic matters such as the fiscal or tax policies or other social or economic pursuits. Human rights is also a subject that comes within the natural scope of associations' jurisdictions. So, while no one would want to silence our professionals from speaking out on such issues as employment, health, poverty and the environment, the fact remains that their organisations have, for the most part, kept silent on them preferring to tackle the treaty with Israel and opposing "normalisation with the enemy." What, for instance, has the Jordan Medical Association done about the increasing number of diet-related cancer cases in Jordan and how has it reacted to reports about mothers' milk containing high levels of DDT? Why has that association remained oblivious to dangers of contamination to agricultural products and other foodstuffs? Equally pertinent questions can be asked to our engineers, lawyers and others. Bread and butter issues are, by all standards, more important to Jordanians than the crisis in Bosnia and the status of the West Bank relations, important as these are.

It is true that permitted the establishment of unions and professional associations are part of the rationale behind their existence and normalisation is certainly not one of them. This does not mean that they cannot and should not express their opinions on any subject. It is just that we would like them to get their priorities right.

OPINION PRESS COMMENTARIES

ABDULLAH AL FAYED, who presided over the summit, said that the conference, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, was in fact aimed at deepening the differences and divisions. He said that the leaders of the Islamic Nation would not move towards solving Islamic issues like the Palestinian and Bosnia and end the embargo on Israel. Nothing of this has been achieved, said Al Fayed. The writer said the Islamic masses are dismayed and disappointed to see these results and to see their country divided more than ever before. The conference was a failure in voicing its support, by words alone, to the suffering of their children and the aggression against the Holy Shrines. The writer said that the fact that the Islamic conference have proved to be impotent, in dealing with the issues of most concern to the Muslim people reflect the backwardness of the nation and the obsolete manner in which they try to solve questions of concern to the Islamic World.

REGARDLESS OF the resolutions and the final statement issued by the Casablanca summit, towards which Jordan expressed reservations, Jordanians and Palestinians are determined to remain united in word and deed, said Al Ra'i daily Sunday. The paper said that Jordan will remain true to its commitment, the Hashemites will honour their pledge of the holy shrines and the Palestinians will continue to support the King's endeavours to regain Arab rights in Palestine, said the paper. We were not angered by the final statement of the conference, but we were disappointed to see Islamic Nations in disarray and overlooking the role played by the Hashemites in safeguarding the holy shrines over the past decades, said the daily. We were pained because the Islamic nations gathered at Casablanca realise too well that the Muslims have common interests transcending the Islamic rights but still do nothing to offset this conspiracy and display the minimum level of solidarity, said the paper. It said that Jordan and the Hashemites need no certificate of testimony by any party for their historic role in safeguarding the holy shrines on behalf of the Islamic Nation.

HUMAN RIGHTS FILE

Israeli Supreme Court's activism should be emulated

ISRAEL'S MILITARY machine and state of the art technology have always been the envy of its Arab neighbours. After all, we on the Arab side have attributed to our repeated defeat at Israel's hands to its military prowess and political clout in Western countries. With the military option now defunct, in the wake of the ratification or impending conclusion of peace treaties between Israel and the principal Arab parties, the Arab eyes may turn to other Israeli feats from which we can draw the necessary conclusions if not duplicate them altogether.

I cannot think of a more fitting example than the judiciary and its course in Israel to learn from and emulate where possible. My recent participation in an international conference at the Hebrew University, entitled "The Nature and Legitimacy of Judicial Review," gave me a rare opportunity to have a timely glimpse at the making of the Israeli judiciary, its challenges and troubled waters ahead.

The conference, attended by U.S. Supreme Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Canadian Supreme Court judges Gerard La Forest, Peter Cory and Frank Iacobucci and many other judges, like Quebec Court of Appeals Judge Michel Proulx, Chief Justice of the Alberta Court of Appeals Catherine Fraser, Judge Rosalie Abella of the Ontario Court of Appeals and many other legal scholars and deans of prominent law schools, was matched by the chief justice of the Israeli Supreme Court, Aharon Barak, and his colleagues, Supreme Court Justice Itzhak Zamir, Israeli Minister of Justice Professor David Libai and Minister of Economy and Planning Professor Shimon Shetreet were also there to leave their imprints on the deliberations of the conference.

The meeting could not have occurred at more opportune time since it coincided with the passing of an Israeli judicial storm that centred on no other than Chief Justice Barak himself. The immediate pretext of the national and judicial controversy was the recent ruling by the Barak court that qualified a homosexual couple as a married couple

in the eyes of the Israeli legislators and therefore eligible to the privileges and rights of heterosexually married peoples. The religious community and their supporters expectedly went up in arms against this "too liberal" construction of the relevant Israeli law and accused the Israeli Supreme Court under the leadership of Justice Barak of attempting to rewrite Israeli laws and, by so doing, trespass the prerogatives of the legislative branch, the Knesset. Even a more serious charge was the claim that such far-reaching judicial decisions stand to undermine the Jewishness of the Israeli democracy. Justice Barak and his colleagues at the court stuck to their guns and defended their right to engage in "progressive interpretation" of the basic laws of the country. Ministers Libai and Shetreet came to the rescue of the "rebellious" judiciary by asserting that the independence and integrity of the judicial branch must be preserved at all costs and that progressive interpretation of the organic laws of the country is a necessary function of modern statehood.

For us, the immediate issue is not whether homosexual couples should be treated as and accorded the benefits associated with legally married heterosexuals. The prime concern for us is the quality, integrity and independence of the court system and its ability to engage in evolutionary construction of our Constitution and other basic laws. When told about our own judicial storm that was touched off by a series of resignations from the Judicial Council and the highest courts of the land, the Court of Cassation and Supreme Court Justice, Justice Barak showed interest in our judicial experience and we both wondered if both sides can learn from each other in advancing the cause of the judicial review as a necessary means to set the dynamics of true modernisation into motion. I also asked during my interventions whether as jurists we can draw a parallel between the call for the preservation of "Jewish democracy" as distinguished from pluralistic democracy and the demand of the Islamic forces in the Arab and Muslim worlds for the establishment of "Islamic democracy."

Justice Barak is a superb judge with very high integrity and an extremely enlightened mind and it is with the like of Justice Barak that Israel can be transformed into a full-fledged democracy and a champion of civil liberties. The causes of peace and human rights and Israel stand to profit a great deal from the emergence of an "activist" Israeli Supreme Court. I say so not because I agree with their ruling on homosexuals. If anything, I am opposed to that decision. On the other hand, as a jurist preoccupied with human rights, I am firmly supportive of the sense of activism that the Israeli Supreme Court is constantly defending and I hope that one day we, on the Arab side, would enjoy a similar judiciary in order to better cope with changing times.

By a stroke of luck, the Conference on the Nature and Legitimacy of Judicial Review took place when the current judicial controversy in Israel is unfolding. The eminent judges, jurists and law professors were united in defending Chief Justice Barak and his colleagues. Arabs have a stake in the ongoing struggle across the Jordan River for a more active judiciary that is not only independent but also powerful enough to juridically test the policies and legislature represents the majority of the people, the judiciary represents the national conscience of all the people.

LETTERS

Chechenya's right to self-rule

To the Editor:

Russian Ambassador to Jordan Alexandre Vladimirovich Seltanov's statement (Jordan Times Dec. 15-16, 1994), that the conflict in Chechenya is not religious, like the one in Bosnia is absolutely true. But his claim that Chechenya is an integral part of the Russian Federation is questionable.

Throughout history, religion and ethnic differences have been used only as excuses by the mightier countries to colonise and invade the weaker ones. The main reason behind colonisation, imperialism or invasion is always one-sided interests. The interests of the mightier country to expand its frontiers, to exploit the resources of other nations and to exercise its dominance over the weaker. All these interests are against basic human rights, self-determination and self-rule.

The Chechen's, and other north Caucasian people's, struggle against Tsarist Russia's takeover of the region in the 19th century is well documented in history, as is the mass deportation to barren Siberia of the entire Checheno nation between 1944 and 1957 by the former communist Soviet Union. This attempt of ethnic cleansing of nations was performed ruthlessly against many peoples in the former Soviet Union.

The Russian parliament (Duma) acknowledged in 1990 that this genocide was a grave mistake. This acknowledgement, although valuable, does not erase history nor the memory of the affected people, Chechens included.

The Chechen-Ingush Republic was an autonomous entity in the former Russian, Soviet, Socialist Republic. In November, 1990, the Chechen National Conference was held in Grozny (capital of Chechenya) and the participants unanimously proclaimed the independence and sovereignty of the Chechen-Ingush Republic (a right to self-determination that the constitution of the former Soviet Union guaranteed to its constituent republics). The participants to this conference represented all ethnic groups in the Chechen-Ingush Republic, with the ratio of one delegate per 1,000 inhabitants.

The declaration of independence was ratified by the parliament of the republic on Nov. 27, 1990. The former Soviet Union was dissolved at midnight, Dec. 31, 1991. As a result of the break-up of the Soviet Union (which President Yeltsin played a major role in) the former Russian Soviet Socialist Republic also declared its independence.

In this constitutional vacuum, the Chechen Republic lost all its constitutional links and bonds with any former Soviet existence. The Russian Federation was created upon signing the Russian Federation treaty on March 13, 1992. By its own free will, Chechenya did not sign this treaty and could not be coerced into doing so. Thus, the Chechen Republic never became an integral part of the Russian Federation. The claim that Chechenya has unilaterally seceded or separated from the federation is categorically incorrect since it never was a part of it. Therefore, Chechenya is not a Russian internal affair.

The Chechen Republic is an independent, free entity with all the rights to self-determination, self-rule, democracy and human rights. These are the principles that peace and freedom-loving people of Chechenya believe in, when dealing with their neighbours in the Russian Federation. These are the same principles that have brought President Yeltsin to power. Why deny them to others? Why deny them to the north Caucasian nations?

The Russian claim that if Chechenya breaks away from the Russian Federation, the Chechen people will suffer greatly because they can not establish their own modern country is incorrect. The Chechen people have survived 200 years of brutal wars with the invading Russians. They will certainly survive if left in peace. The Chechen Republic united in a federation with the whole north Caucasian nations will develop into a modern state with its own resources. This European state will definitely have a positive impact and contribution to the world at large.

Hashim Beano,
The Jordanian Committee for the Support of the People of the Independent Caucasian Chechen Republic, Amman.

Refreshing experience

To the Editor:

Without commenting on the merits of either review in the Dec. 14, 1994 issue of the Jordan Times of the art works by Dutch painter Gert Bierenbroodspot, now on exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, I am writing to thank and commend you for running two different opinions on the same page of your newspaper. What a refreshing — and sadly, rare — experience! The contrast in views made me want to go out and take a look at those paintings for myself. I hope we readers can look forward to more such exchanges on a variety of subjects in your paper.

Katherine J. Sullivan,
Amman, Sweitnyeh

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

U.S.-Israel relations in the new Republican era

By Peretz Kidron

THE REPUBLICAN landslide in the U.S. mid-term elections sent Israeli political strategists scrambling to reassess U.S.-Israel relations. Just two days after the extent of the Republican triumph became apparent, the Ha'aretz daily published a confidential memorandum from the foreign ministry's "political planning" division, analysing the election results and setting out guidelines for an Israeli diplomatic strategy. It is a revealing document.

The unnamed authors declare bluntly that "a change in priorities will be required. We have been accustomed to channelling most of our contact with the administration by way of the 'peace team' under Dennis Ross. Now, we will have to expand the basis of activity. Intensive effort is called for vis-a-vis the Republicans, without neglecting the Democrats, to guarantee bipartisan support for the peace process." An overhaul of American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is urged; the pro-Israel lobby "will have to re-examine its working methods in the Congress. AIPAC currently consists of personages identified with the Democrats, and it is now vital to draw back into its ranks persons identified with the Republicans."

The memorandum depicts the election results as "a historic turn-around setting a formal seal on the transformation of the Republicans into the majority party in the U.S.," in contrast, President Clinton is portrayed mercilessly as "a lame duck." "It is premature to bury him politically, but his ability to act and pass legislation matching his election platform has been significantly impaired." Accordingly, the authors sound a sceptical note about "the president's pledges on aid to Israel and help in reducing the risks of peace," which require review "in view of the question of whether Congress will approve them."

The memorandum notes that "the Republicans are Israel supporters, but may oppose Clinton's foreign policy initiatives precisely out of what they consider concern for Israel and, for example, will oppose the despatch of U.S. troops to the Golan Heights. It is doubtful whether a Republican-controlled Congress will be willing to increase the direct foreign aid that will be required if there is a breakthrough in negotiations with Syria. Increased aid will be more problematic because there will be new clients: Jordan, Syria and Lebanon." Plans for a Middle East development bank — a pet project of Foreign Minister Peres — are also in doubt because the Republicans are expected to oppose U.S. finance for the project.



in military aid Israel gets annually, or the funding of joint projects, notably the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system. A "senior military source" told journalists that Israel has not hitherto encountered Republican opposition on these matters. The Arrow system has been closely associated with the "Star Wars" anti-missile programme strongly promoted by President Reagan.

Israeli nervousness over the political change in the U.S. has historical roots that can be traced back to the "New Deal" and Roosevelt's coalition of minorities in the 1930s and '40s. Like the overwhelming majority of U.S. Jews, Israelis have generally displayed an instinctive bent towards the Democrats, rather naively portrayed as an embodiment of all the virtues: champions of social justice and equality of opportunity in domestic policy, and universalist activism in the international arena. By contrast, Republicans were perceived as the party of big business; the sinister influence of the oil companies was often blamed for the party's alleged anti-Israel bias. Jews with longer historical memories recall Republican isolationism as a major impediment to U.S. adherence to the anti-Nazi coalition in World War II. The social democrats who ruled Israel in its early years had no difficulty in finding a common language with the trade unionists and liberals who played such a prominent role in the Democratic party — while taking a dark view of the Republican Eisenhower administration and its secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, particularly after their intervention to curtail the 1956 Suez campaign.

The general pro-Democratic tilt nevertheless featured some striking deviations, particularly on the part of Yitzhak Rabin. The 1972 elections found Mr. Rabin, in his first civilian post as ambassador to Washington, ignoring diplomatic protocol to speak out strongly on behalf of Richard Nixon. The fact that U.S. Jews largely ignored his advice and persisted in their traditional Democratic alle-

giances did not reduce Democrats' pique at this show of "Israeli perfidy." Later, in his first term as prime minister, Mr. Rabin's relations with Democratic President Jimmy Carter were cool. Evidently free of his party's pro-Democratic bias, Mr. Rabin responded to the election results "in the world's friendliest country towards Israel" by recalling the broad support for Israel in both major parties. He will have no inhibitions about working in close concert with Washington's new Republican bosses.

Concern about foreign aid

But while Rabin may sense no discomfort over the Republican victory, many Israeli observers feel uneasy over the growing political clout of Christian fundamentalists and their far-right associates. The Israeli media were openly relieved over Oliver North's failure to win a Senate seat — in spite of North's close links with Israel in the secret arms deals of Iranagate. Nevertheless, occasional relapses into old-fashioned anti-Semitism, the American far right — like the majority of Christian fundamentalist groups — is noisily pro-Israel. But such gung-ho "holier than the Pope" support could prove an embarrassment to the policies of the Rabin government. The Israeli media highlighted remarks by Republican Senator Jesse Helms querying Syria's genuine interest in peace with Israel, and alleging that all Mr. Assad wants "is the Golan Heights and access to the pockets of U.S. taxpayers." Mr. Helms' longstanding hostility towards the PLO closely echoes the sentiments of the Likud opposition.

Attention also focused on Republican Senate leader Bob Dole, with reference to his efforts in 1990 to procure a 5 per cent cut in aid to Israel, and his pledge that henceforth there will be "no more sacred cows" in the allotment of U.S. aid. Journalists also noted Dole's past brushes with AIPAC, notably his claim that he could not utter "a single word of criticism" about Israel without coming under attack by

its lobbyists, and his charges that AIPAC seeks to "run U.S. foreign policy."

Israel has solid grounds for concern about Republican stringency on foreign aid. Its citizens' growing prosperity depends heavily on direct U.S. aid of \$3bn annually, supplemented by \$2bn in federal loan guarantees and lavish donations of surplus military equipment, as well as U.S. funding for Israel's military development projects, of which the Arrow is but one example.

Cut-backs on U.S. foreign aid could carry equally painful effects for Israel's foreign policy. The widely held perception of its ability to manipulate U.S. purse-strings has become a major instrument of Israeli diplomacy, making Israel a veritable shrine for Third World leaders convinced that a wink and a nod from Mr. Rabin is a vital prerequisite for desperately needed dollars. This explains the stampede of Asian and African states renewing or initiating diplomatic relations with Israel. Above all, prospects of U.S. aid dangled before the noses of Israel's neighbours have played a major role in breaking the country's long-standing isolation.

All this is in jeopardy after the Republican victory. As suggested by the foreign ministry memorandum, Israel can no longer count on a knee-jerk sympathy for its demands and interests in Washington. If Mr. Rabin wishes to rely on continuation of unqualified U.S. support, he must adopt the Republican lexicon. The task should not be too arduous: his first step will be to revive terms employed by his Likud predecessors in the posts respectively of prime minister and defence minister. Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon rejected the charge that Israel was a U.S. "client state" and never tired of pointing out that U.S.-Israel relations were "a partnership" with Israel "a strategic asset" protecting U.S. interests in the Middle East. In a renewed climate of "America First" Republicanism, such tones should go over well in Washington. Middle East International.

كلمة من الأردن

Features

Crisis looms as Europe runs out of dump sites

By Christopher Burns
The Associated Press

ENTRESSEN, France — The artificial mountain reeks in the morning sun, growing ever bigger as cranes empty train cars loaded with tonnes of Marseille's trash.

Reputed to be Europe's biggest waste dump, covering 85 hectares that includes refuse from before World War I, it is a symbol of the garbage crisis facing much of the continent.

As in the United States, dumps are filling fast in Europe and new sites are hard to find because of high population density and "not in my backyard" resistance. That is forcing countries to step up plans to incinerate or export trash.

Environmentalists, in turn, are fighting those plans. They say that incinerators emit dangerous pollutants, that more should be done to limit product packaging, and that Europe should stop exporting its garbage, especially toxic waste.

"In a number of countries there's a real saturation problem," said Marius Enthoven, the European Union's director general for environment and nuclear safety.

By 2005, landfills "will become a secondary or tertiary option. Some countries will go for the incineration solution," he said.

Marseille, by the end of the decade, will have to find somewhere else to roll 60 railcars filled with 15 tonnes each of garbage daily, said Jean St. Martin, a technical advisor at the Entressen dump 48 kilometres northwest of the Mediterranean port.

The city plans to build two incinerators within its boundaries, but locals are fighting it.

Marseille's recycling programme targets metal, paper, wood, glass, tyres, batteries and used oil, and "people are asking for it to expand," Mr. St. Martin said. But plastic, 25 per cent of the trash arriving at Entressen, is not recycled.

The problem is cost. Re-

cycling already is so successful that the supply of returned and sorted refuse is outstripping demand, forcing Marseille to pay companies \$38 a tonne just to cart off paper, Mr. St. Martin said.

Incineration is cheaper than recycling, Marseille Mayor Robert Vigouroux said.

"In France we consider the most important thing is to get value out of garbage," said Francis Chalot, a waste engineer at France's Environment Ministry. "Recycling is not the best way sometimes."

Paris no longer has dumps and instead has three incinerators, two of which produce heating for the city's buildings, Mr. Chalot said.

"What system doesn't pollute? To sort more effectively, you'd have to send more trucks to pick it up," he said. French officials support their case for incineration by pointing to Germany, where companies were overwhelmed by recycled trash after instituting a programme that allows consumers to return packaging.

"When the Germans pick it up, they don't know what to do with it," Mr. Chalot said.

The German government has stepped in to help finance recycling. But while the country may look "greener" than some of its neighbours, it is dumping abroad.

France is one of the main destinations — the environmental group Greenpeace calls it "Europe's garbage can" — for both legal and illicit trash shipments.

French customs officials say 30,000 tonnes of demolition refuse were dumped illegally in northern Alsace this year. In September, officials found an illegal dump near the eastern town of Bar-le-Duc containing 300 tonnes of discarded plastic packaging from Germany.

Mr. Enthoven is gradually standardising regulations on transporting waste between member nations.

The EU also issued a directive in May banning the export of nonrecyclable waste to non-European countries,

he said. But the tougher rules do not take effect until 1998 and exempt existing trash-export agreements.

If France is Europe's garbage can, "Germany is by far the world champion in the export of toxic waste," said Jan Rispens, a researcher for Greenpeace. He said Germany shipped 1.3 million tonnes to other nations between 1989 and last March, half the world total.

In Italy, only about 2.5 per cent of trash is recycled, said Enrico Fontana of the environmental group Lega Ambiente.

Italy lacks a policy on packaging, which accounts for an estimated 40 per cent of household waste. That amounts to 500 kilograms per person in major Italian cities annually, according to the Italian magazine Panorama.

The city dump for Madrid, Spain, is full, and up to 40 per cent of Spain's trash goes to unauthorised dumps, said another Greenpeace researcher, Oliva Nunez. The rest is burned.

Barcelona, where new recycling centres are opening, has about 10 years of life left for its dump, said Jaime Mireno, a spokesman for that Spanish city.

Barcelona may expand incineration. It "is not very ecological. But there aren't any other options," he said.

That idea alarms environmental activists. Waste incineration "threatens to become the leading contributor to the degradation of human and environmental health," a Greenpeace study said.

Incineration of plastics and other trash produces dioxins, which are chemical substances linked to cancer, birth defects and reduced fertility.

But French officials say the dioxin problem is being addressed.

"That's the case with the old types (of incinerators); they've had problems with dioxins," Mr. Enthoven said. He said new technology has lowered emissions, but also conceded it "hasn't been applied everywhere."

Biblical king troubles Israeli government

By Danny Gur-Arieh
Reuters

JERUSALEM — An adulterous king of Israel 3,000 years ago is threatening to wreak havoc on the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin, in Israel's parliament, angry when Foreign Minister Shimon Peres questioned the moral scruples of the Biblical King David, will force a no-confidence vote in parliament on Monday.

"This government deserves to fall over this matter. The foreign minister hurt the feelings of millions," said Rabbi Avraham Ravitz of the Degel Hatorah party in parliament. He acknowledged ultra-religious parties had little chance of toppling the government.

But the row may make it more difficult for Mr. Rabin — eager to bolster peace moves by expanding his government — to add a religious party to his coalition.

"Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres, whose moves to settle Israel's conflict with the Palestinians won them each a Nobel Peace Prize, have had a harder time keeping peace in Israeli political circles."

Not even Mr. Peres's apology could halt the controversy. It was during a debate over the Nobel Prize in parliament that the row erupted.

Rabbis angry at Mr. Peres's position in favour of ceding occupied land for peace cited King David — a conqueror — as a real hero of the Jewish people.

"Not everything King David did on the ground and on the rooftops seems to me to be Jewish or appeals to me," Mr. Peres said to launch the storm.

In the Biblical book of Samuel, King David orders Bathsheba, wife of one of his warriors, brought to his palace after seeing her on a rooftop. "And he lay with her," the book says. Later David sent her husband to die in battle.

In the modern-day exchange, sparked by Mr. Peres's comment, rabbis rushed to David's defence, citing him as a great peacemaker who established Jerusalem as the heart of Judaism.



In parliament, Rabbi Ravitz shouted at Mr. Peres to "shut his mouth." Reporters said Rabbi Avraham Verdiger became so worked up he had to take medication to lower his blood pressure.

Cabinet minister Shulamit Aloni of the leftist Meretz Party said she rejected any notion the religious parties had a monopoly on interpreting Jewish tradition and fore-

cast the no-confidence motion would fail. But the ruling Labour Party under Mr. Rabin, whose previous government fell 17 years ago in a clash with a religious coalition partner, was taking no chances.

Labour Party officials held last-minute consultations with religious party members to try to get them to drop the motion in the 120-member

Knesset and ordered all party members to show up for the vote.

Mr. Rabin's 56-member coalition relies on support from Arab-dominant parties outside the government to survive close votes. Their support appeared assured but any absence of coalition members could tilt the balance.

Religious parties have been part of nearly every Israeli government in the country's 46-year history. The ultra-Orthodox Shas Party joined the Labour-led government in 1992 but bolted a year later over Shas corruption scandals. Mr. Rabin has since been trying to bring Shas back to broaden his base of support for peace moves with neighbouring Arabs.

Carter on Bosnia mission

(Continued from page 12)

has since evolved into an elder statesman whose private diplomacy has helped settle explosive crises in North Korea and Haiti.

The Balkan mission shaped up as his most complex and politically treacherous challenge yet, involving three national communities hardened by years of war and adept at manipulating would-be peacemakers for their own ends.

Western officials and Bosnian Muslims were concerned that the Serbs would abuse his high diplomatic reputation to undercut the contact group plan. But the top U.N. official in former Yugoslavia ruled this out after briefing Mr. Carter.

"I think... Carter is too intelligent to be manipulated

by anybody," said Yasushi Akashi, civilian chief of UNPROFOR and special envoy of the U.N. secretary general in the Balkans.

Some diplomats said Mr. Carter's only prospect of success was if the Bosnian Serbs and Mr. Karadzic needed him as a face-saving figleaf for reversing their repudiation of the peace plan.

Mr. Carter arrived in ex-Yugoslavia without evidence the Bosnian Serbs had fulfilled promises made under a new "peace initiative" by Mr. Karadzic to stop paralyzing U.N. humanitarian operations and end fighting around Sarajevo.

Mr. Karadzic pledged last week to free detained U.N. personnel, reopen besieged Sarajevo airport for U.N. aid flights, allow U.N. convoys to move freely, release Mus-

lim prisoners under 19 years of age and accept a ceasefire in Sarajevo.

"I will observe very closely the commitment by Dr.

Karadzic and will decide what to do after discussions I will be leading with the president of Bosnia when we arrive in Sarajevo," Mr. Carter said.

Rabin ready for compromise

(Continued from page 1)

tration, a Palestinian official said Sunday.

The Israeli army said that Palestinian police force, set up under the Israeli-PLO peace accord, had apologised in the name of Mr. Arafat for the incident in which an Israeli soldier was wounded and the policeman, who shouted abuse before opening fire, was wounded, and captured.

The shooting took place at an Israeli army post at Sufa in the southern Gaza Strip. Both injured men were taken to hospital in fair condition.

Palestinian Authority official Soufian Abu Zaid said commanders had launched an investigation.

"The soldier did what he did out of frustration, out of anger. Over what? I can't say," he told army radio.

An Israeli army statement said: "The heads of the Palestinian police expressed in the name of the police and Chairman Arafat great regret over the incident."

Palestinians said it was the act of a single policeman who would be punished severely and wished the soldier a swift recovery, the army statement said.

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Republicans to open '95 with a spending cut blitz

Analysts expect Fed to resume raising interest rates next month

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) meets Tuesday to consider raising interest rates for the seventh time this year, but most analysts are betting it will hold off from acting rather than spoil the Christmas cheer.

After boosting short-term rates sharply just last month, the inflation-war central bank is at a crossroads. It knows the economy is ending 1994 with a bang, but it expects growth to slow next year as the tighter credit bite.

The result, a probable decision at Tuesday's meeting to delay a rate increase until after the start of the new year, when the Fed will have a better idea of how the economy performed during the crucial Christmas selling season.

"They will wait a bit longer, wanting to take a look at Christmas spending and inflation as they go into the new year," said David Jones, a veteran Fed watcher and chief economist at Wall Street firm Aubrey G. Landon and Co.

But the delay is likely to be short-lived. Most analysts expect the central bank to resume raising interest rates next month. Mr. Jones is looking for a half percentage point increase in January.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan was as clear as he ever gets in signaling that higher rates are on the way in testimony to Congress earlier this month.

While insisting that he did not know whether the central bank would raise rates this week, Mr. Greenspan painted a picture of an economy that was growing too fast for the Fed's liking and that was fueling inflationary pressures in the process.

"We must remain alert to signs of inflationary pressures," he told Congress' Joint Economic Committee. "If price increases are accommodated, they can become readily embedded in higher inflation expectations."

Even some Clinton administration insiders admit that higher short-term interest rates are likely next year. "It's not unreasonable to think there might be further rate increases," was how one senior official put it.

But the official, who declined to be named, expects the Fed to hold off from acting this week as it tries to gauge the economic impact of the actions that it's already taken.

The Fed has raised rates by a total of 2½ percentage points since February, including three-quarters last month.

"This is a time when you want to have a delicate hand," the senior Clinton administration official said.

That argument is not lost on policymakers at the Fed, even the so-called anti-inflation hawks. They want to cool off the economy and thus extend the economic expansion, not kill it.

"If you try to do too much too fast, there's a chance of an overkill," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Minneapolis-based Norwest Corp.

So far there doesn't seem much risk of that happening. A string of economic indicators released last week — from housing starts to industrial production — showed the economy continuing to steam ahead.

But there were some faint signs of a possible slowdown on the horizon. In a national survey, builders reported growing increasingly gloomy about home sales as spiraling mortgage interest rates discouraged prospective buyers.

And the financial markets were signaling that they expect slower growth as well, with long-term interest rates easing and Wall Street stocks sagging.

For its part, the administration expects the Fed to succeed in its effort to slow the expansion without killing it, and is projecting annual economic growth of about 2½ per cent over the next two years, officials said.

But for that to happen, the

Fed will have to pay as much attention to where the economy is going as to where it's coming from in plotting monetary strategy in the days and weeks ahead.

Meanwhile, the Republican-dominated Congress plans a coordinated blitz on government spending, starting when Congress convenes in the first week of 1995.

More than \$850 billion in cuts over five years would pay for equally ambitious tax cuts and balance the budget.

Wall Street and Democrats may be sceptical, but Republicans feel they have public support for smaller government.

"For the next year we're going to make the tough choices," said incoming Senate majority whip, Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican. "It's going to happen."

Hearings on major agenda items are planned to start on Jan. 5, when Congress usually goes into recess after formal ceremonies the day before.

For example, Senate hearings will focus on freeing states from spending their own money on federally mandated programmes and on a constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

Republicans plan to vote on the balanced budget amendment by Jan. 19 in the House and in the Senate by month's end.

They like President Bill Clinton's plan to give \$60 billion in tax relief to middle-income earners but plan to go much further.

"The president's budget won't be dead on arrival when it comes to Capitol Hill next year," said a senior Republican Senate aide. "We're going to take his ideas for cutting government and then cut even more."

History shows that Congress finds it much easier to make popular tax cuts than to find the money to pay for them.

Some participants in financial markets are already concerned that the rush to cut taxes could force higher gov-

ernment borrowings and in turn send interest rates higher.

But Republicans say not to worry. "We plan on having more in spending cuts than we would have in tax cuts," said Mr. Lott. "We would have money left over."

And Republicans plan to cut a lot. A senior Senate Republican aide estimated \$850 billion in cuts are needed over the next five years, much larger than any deficit cutting package ever passed.

"These cuts will be huge, enormous, unbelievable," a House Republican aide said. "It will be the most radical change you have ever seen in federal government."

But won't Mr. Clinton use his presidential veto? outlining his tax-cut plan in an address to the nation, Mr. Clinton warned that he wouldn't tolerate "ideas that hurt poor people."

But the Republicans argue that Mr. Clinton is now a follower who may take their lead.

"It's just another case of the president saying 'me too,' chided budget committee chairman-designate John Kasich, a Republican from Ohio, after Mr. Clinton proposed his tax cuts.

Republican leaders from both houses are conferring often to coordinate their strategy.

House speaker-designate Newt Gingrich of Georgia and Senate majority leader-designate Robert Dole of Kansas have assigned two letters in recent weeks, including one urging Mr. Clinton to adopt their platform on taxes, foreign and domestic policy.

They plan to roll their major proposals into one large budget bill that can move through the House and Senate under special rules that limit debate.

The Republicans think they can tie Mr. Clinton's hands and force the nation to reach the statutory limits on its accumulated debt of \$4.9 trillion in August.

Egyptian exports rise by 14%

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian exports rose by more than 14 per cent in the 1993-94 financial year, Economy Minister Mohamed Mahmoud Bayumi said in an interview published Sunday.

Exports stood at 10.4 billion Egyptian pounds (\$3 billion) between July 1993 and June 1994, compared with 9.1 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion) the previous year, Mr. Bayumi told the Al-Ahram daily.

The figure surpasses the expectations of the International Monetary Fund, which forecast exports worth \$2.98 billion in the last financial year.

But it remains lower than Egypt's import levels, which hit \$15 billion in 1992-93.

Mr. Bayumi said the government would aim to further boost exports next year by implementing measures set out in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, signed by Egypt.

"Taxes imposed on some exported food products will be removed while others will be reduced," the minister said.

Egypt's main export is oil products. According to an international expert, non-oil exports make up just four per cent of the country's gross domestic product, compared to six per cent in 1987-88.

Top China labour officials urge state redundancies

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese state-owned companies must be allowed to lay off excess workers despite the accompanying threat of mass unemployment, Vice-Labour Minister Zhu Jianshen was quoted as saying.

Unless the firms are allowed to relieve themselves of the "historic burden" of supporting thousands of surplus workers, the government's bid to create a modern enterprise system will become an "impossibility," Mr. Zhu was quoted as saying by the China Business Times.

"We must authorise these firms to cut their labour forces," Mr. Zhu said.

Official estimates put the number of surplus state-sector employees in China at more than 30 million.

While admitting that mass redundancies would mean a surge in unemployment, Mr. Zhu stressed that such an outcome was the only realistic choice.

"It means that hidden unemployment will become public unemployment," he said.

Despite experimenting with bankruptcies, the Chinese government has so far held off from a serious

overhaul of the ailing state sector, fearing that the social consequences could fuel unrest.

One of the main obstacles to forced redundancies had been the country's inadequate social security system, which would leave many former workers without financial support.

However, the myriad problems facing the state sector have now become so pressing that stronger measures are clearly required if China's reform programme is to press ahead.

"We allow firms to lay off excess workers, the contradictions that have been thrown up by enterprise reform will be reduced," Mr. Zhu said.

China's ailing state firms have urged the government to allow them to dismiss 20 per cent of their workers, blaming lack of control over personnel and funding shortages for their problems.

The Economic Daily said that nearly 79 per cent of the 1,272 state enterprises questioned in a recent State Statistical Bureau survey said it remained too difficult to decide personnel matters independently and to lay off

armies to surplus workers, the report said. The firms have had the theoretical right to take such personnel decisions since the 1980s.

The enterprises said they only dismissed workers in exceptional circumstances, and in such cases the victims and their families often demonstrated outside the factory gates or the director's house and were frequently supported by the unit's official union or party committee.

"Surplus labour is one of the main reasons for the poor efficiency of enterprises," the report said, citing the views of the firms surveyed between April and August.

"At present, the government does not have to create any more special conditions for state enterprises or give them any more rights. If it just allows by 20 per cent, then they will do very well. A cut of 30 per cent would be even better," it said.

About one quarter of the loss-making sector's 103 million workers are estimated to be surplus, but the government has shied away from allowing large-scale dismissals for fear that soaring unemployment — with only a fledgling safety net — would lead to unrest.

Among the surveyed firms' other major grips were severe shortages for working capital and rapid increases in debts. Nearly three quarters said their capital was insufficient while 80 per cent said the debt burden had become heavier in recent years, the survey showed, adding that slightly over four per cent had experienced a decline in debts.

Fears that funding shortages may cause enterprises to go under has forced the government to ease up its 18-month tight-credit policy on several occasions. Many of the enterprises rely on state subsidies for survival.

The sector's losses are estimated at least 30 billion yuan (\$3.5 billion) a year. The surveyed enterprises were located in 13 cities or provinces and included 434 large-scale firms, 641 medium-scale and 129 small-scale, the report said.

Asian economies forecast to expand 7.3% in 1995

TOKYO (AFP) — Economic expansion in eight Asian economies is forecast to slow from an average of 7.4 per cent this year to 7.3 per cent next year, a governmental institute has said. The Institute of Developing Economies, a research unit backed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industries (MITI), said that the slight contraction would be the result of an expected decline in exports from the region next year. But the institute said the eight economies — Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Taiwan — would easily maintain seven per cent growth, supported by continued foreign investment.

Thailand is forecast to post economic growth of 8.9 per cent next year, the highest expansion in the region, up from this year's 8.7 per cent. Singapore is expected to show growth of 8.9 per cent, down from 10.3 per cent this year. Malaysia is forecast to post growth of 8.5 per cent, down from 8.9 per cent while South Korea is expected to show a 7.7 per cent increase, down from a 8.2 per cent increase.

Growth of the Indonesian economy is projected to accelerate from 7.1 per cent to 7.6 per cent, while Taiwan's economic growth is to recover slightly from 6.3 per cent to 6.4 per cent. The Philippine economy is to mark growth of 5.8 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent, but growth in Hong Kong is to slow from 5.7 per cent to 5.3 per cent.

Four L. American states sign trade accord

OURO PRETO, Brazil (R) — The presidents of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay Saturday sanctioned the almost-total liberalisation of regional trade from Jan. 1 next year.

Presidents Carlos Menem of Argentina, Itamar Franco of Brazil, Juan Carlos Wasmosy of Paraguay and Alberto Lacalle of Uruguay — meeting in the Brazilian town of Ouro Preto — signed a docu-

ment furthering the development of the Mercosur common market.

The four presidents welcomed the presence of ministers from Bolivia and Chile, two countries which have expressed interest in joining Mercosur in the near future.

The protocol marks the ratification of Mercosur thus allowing for future negotiations with other countries and groups such as the European

Union.

The presidents reaffirmed the democratic values of Mercosur which they considered essential to achieve the final goal of common market.

Mercosur, Spanish for common market of the south, will group 200 million people and has a collective \$700 billion in gross domestic product.

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay have \$10

billion in annual trade among them, a figure which is expected to rise to \$12 billion next year.

Under the accord, 90-905 per cent of goods traded among the nations will have no tariffs. The rest will have tariffs that can be eased over the next five years.

The average tariff for countries outside Mercosur is 12 per cent, with a range from zero to 20 per cent.

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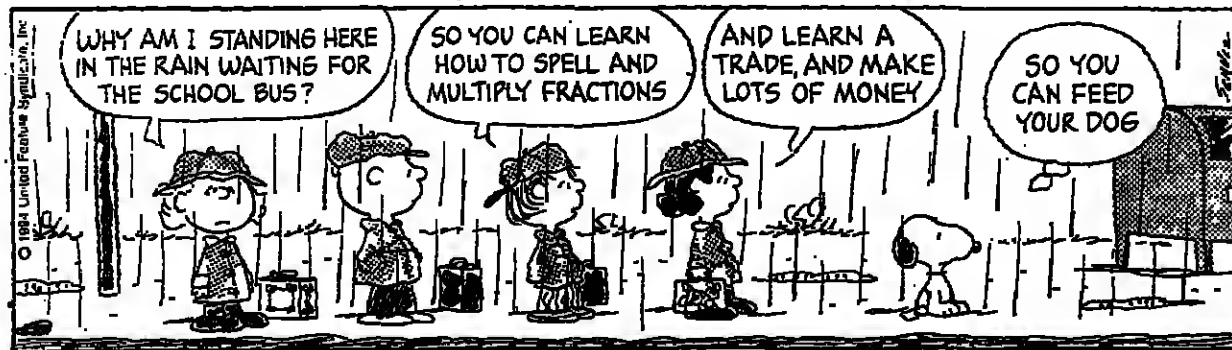
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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ECASE

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NILUKE

DISMOW

ANSWER: A

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Answer: What she was looking for in the singles dance — A MATCH.

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus

ACROSS

1 Dorian

5 Grouch

9 Minute quantity

13 Cold cream

14 High seat

15 Financier's pet

17 American lion

19 Presidential

20 Set, suit

21 Neoprene

22 River in India

23 Novelist White

26 Prove to be false

30 Fog

34 Large rodent

37 Laughing's "Cute and"

38 Indirect

39 Literary conflict

40 Taken out

42 Set or road end

43 Impressions

45 Unbearable

46 Jacob's twin

47 Florida bay

48 Personal account

50 Classify

52 Indian

56 Some when

58 — Tin Tin

61 Army rank abbr.

62 Void

63 Easy to reach

64 Level of

67 Alpha cat

68 Author Waugh

69 Formal content

70 Sagacious

71 Certain abode

DOWN

1 Generations

2 Without help

3 Glimping device

4 Champagne

5 Supervision

6 Drawing

7 "Doodle" bear

8 Growing in pairs

9 They pay for

10 Shareholder

11 Areas of

12 Peace time

13 Largely

14 Ape

15 Other

16 Command, old style

17 Womankind

18 Crises

19 Goat bed

20 Corned

21 Litter

22 Litter

23 Litter

24 Litter

25 Litter

26 Litter

27 Litter

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U.S., Pakistan sign \$2.5b energy deals

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. and Pakistani companies signed 18 deals Saturday amounting to \$2.5 billion of investment in Pakistan's energy and petroleum sectors.

Memorandums of understanding were signed at a special ceremony in Islamabad after six days of talks between U.S. and Pakistani firms.

U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary William White, who led a U.S. business delegation, hailed the signing in a speech as another important milestone in the continuing development of a U.S.-Pakistani energy partnership.

Four agreements worth more than \$2 billion were for power generation projects, four worth \$425 million related to energy efficiency and renewable energy technology, and 10 worth \$58 million were for oil and gas concessions.

"These agreements reflect the interest of the private industry in America — and the interest of the government of the United States — in expanding business ties with Pakistan," said Mr. White, who praised Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government for its investment incentives.

Mr. White's visit followed one by U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary in September when U.S. businessmen signed energy deals amounting to \$4 billion.

Mr. White told a news conference that the agreements would take years to be fully implemented but said some ground-breaking would begin next year.

Pakistan Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Anwar Saifullah said Islamabad would soon announce new policies to encourage foreign investment in hydroelectric power generation and

mineral exploration. The four power generation projects worth \$2.018 billion signed Saturday, include coal-fired and gas-fired stations, a U.S. statement said. The participating U.S. companies are Altern Inc., American United Machinery, Leesburg Financial and BBI.

Of the \$425 million projects, two involve wind generation, one hydro and one energy efficiency, with U.S. companies including Kenetech, Omega Zond, Synergics and Condyne.

The 10 deals in oil and gas concessions worth \$58 million "rang from seismic opera-

tions to the construction of an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) terminal," the statement added.

U.S. companies partnering Pakistani firms in those projects included Union Texas Petroleum, Occidental Petroleum, Ferrellgas North America, Voco, and Improved Petroleum Recovery International.

In addition to the 18 deals, the United States and Pakistani ministers signed five bilateral agreements involving hydrocarbon research, renewable energy resources and energy conservation, the statement said.

Organised crime is main threat to business — study

LONDON (R) — Fraud is turning into a greater threat to international business than terrorism, consultants Control Risks Group said Monday.

"While political instability, nationalism and religious extremism will continue to disrupt business in 1995, organised crime is the most pervasive and sophisticated threat business will face next year," said a study in the group's Business Security Outlook.

The report said the threat of organised crime is set to become a key item on board meeting agendas, said Nigel Churton, managing director of Control Risks Group.

A survey of British businesses published in the Business Security Outlook

showed that Russia, Nigeria, Egypt and China were considered the most risky places to do business.

But Christopher Grose, director of Control Risks Information Services, said the risks of Egypt were overestimated.

"While we would agree with business about the extent of the risks in Russia, Nigeria and China, businesses overestimate the threat in Egypt. In fact, aside from a few isolated attacks on tourists in 1994, Egypt presents an excellent opportunity for investment," he said.

The Control Risks Group also published its predictions for 1995, forecasting a civil war in Algeria and peace treaties between Israel and the Lebanon and Syria.

Indian military enters civilian auto market

NEW DELHI (AFP) — After three years of economic reforms, the market bug has even bitten the Indian military.

The Ordnance Factory Board has become the first defence establishment to enter the civilian market by announcing that the Jonga, an army all-terrain vehicle, would be available in automobile showrooms shortly.

And products ranging from designer shirts and leather jackets to detergents and steel castings could be next in line to hit store shelves carrying a "made by the military" label, according to Board officials.

Board chief Jagdish Chandra described the foray into the consumer market as a bid by the organisation to diversify its product range and customer base.

Newspaper advertisements told "people who play with

power" that the army workhorse had been restyled for city roads after serving the military in mountains, jungles and deserts.

"The army doesn't move without it. Nor will you," proclaimed the advertisement promising a "performance beyond the call of duty."

The Jonga's debut in the expanding automobile market is in line with a government decision to use the excess capacity of defence factories for commercial production.

It comes three years after Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao launched reforms putting India on the road to a free market economy after decades of socialist-style insulation.

In keeping with the liberalisation, the government threw its doors open to military laboratories open to industry for research into new technologies.

Business in Kuwait depends on Jordanians, Palestinians

★ The announcement in Kuwait about the cancellation of the high salary condition for an expatriate to bring his family to the emirate is seen as a step forward to open the door wider for Jordanian and Palestinian workers to return to Kuwait.

A private study in the emirate has meanwhile pointed out that the return of Jordanian and Palestinian workers was the cornerstone for renewed commercial activity in Kuwait because the two communities have higher consumption and are bigger spenders than other communities which had a very limited role in reviving the commercial activity. Furthermore, a report by the Kuwait Ministry of Interior has revealed that the Jordanians and Palestinians had a more positive effect on the emirate's social life as they were the least of the communities there to have been involved in criminal activities. As such, the only remaining step towards allowing the return of Jordanian and Palestinian workers to Kuwait is a political decision, especially after having prepared the Kuwaiti people to accept their return following widespread rejection of them in previous years (Al Aswaj).

★ The World Bank and the U.S. will reportedly participate in financing the \$300 million Red Sea Dead Sea canal project (Al Aswaj).

★ Gas accounts for 18 per cent of the fuel used to generate electricity (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The Social Security Corporation has issued a report favouring the activities and achievements of the corporation during 1993. The report, the sixth of kind, reviews the economic situation between 1989 and 1993 and examines population, workforce, tourism activity and the corporation's investments. The report also describes the corporation's functions with relations to the institutions and people associated with its objectives (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) has started to accept contracts from farmers who seek to supply the company with tomatoes for industrial processing during the next season. According to AMPCO's general manager, the company will be adopting a free pricing policy whereby it would pay the farmers according to quality and on pure commercial basis (Al Rai).

★ A study by the Royal Scientific Society has concluded that the quality control level for both of the metal can and the food product inside it (the can) was low, thereby negatively affecting the quality of the product and its suitability for human consumption in addition to affecting the capability of attracting foreign market interests (Al Aswaj).

★ The Cabinet has agreed to guarantee a JD 20 million Housing Bank loan to the teachers' housing fund. In implementation of a Royal directive, the government will cover the interest on the loan. It is expected that between 1,000 and 1,500 teachers will benefit from this decision for a period ranging between two and three years (Al Dustour).

★ The Council of Ministers has agreed to exempt travel and tourism offices from the seven per cent sales tax imposed last June on tourism services because such a tax will benefit foreign countries and competitors at the expense of the treasury and local operators (Al Dustour).

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 12 - December 16, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated against the mark at the end of last week, while rising slightly against the yen and stabilising against sterling. It ended the week 0.27 per cent lower against the mark and 0.15 per cent higher against the yen.

The U.S. unit retreated against other major currencies Monday, in view of a report published by the New York Times. The report suggested that the Fed might postpone its monetary tightening from Dec. 20th, its next Federal Open Market Committee meeting, to the end of January or early February 1995. Meanwhile, reports indicated that attempts by the U.S. Congress, with the majority Republicans, to reduce taxes put a downward pressure on the dollar, since such a reduction might lead to a higher U.S. budget deficit.

The dollar continued its decline against the mark Tuesday, while rising against the yen and sterling. It fell against the mark in view of the mark's rise against other major European currencies in cross trading, which occurred after news of political instability in some major European capitals. The mark rose against the Italian lire in view of investigations over bribery charges against the Italian prime minister. It also rose against the French franc after a leading candidate for French presidential elections, Mr. Delors, said that he is not entering the next elections.

The U.S. unit retreated modestly against the mark and sterling Wednesday, while stabilising against the yen. It declined on continued mark's rise against other major European currencies, which came on the back of continued political instability in France and Italy.

The dollar rose sharply against the mark and slightly against the yen Thursday. Reports indicated that trading was slow in view of market participants' reluctance to take fresh positions ahead of the Christmas holiday.

The U.S. unit rose modestly against major European currencies Friday, while retreating slightly against the yen. The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.5728 marks, 100.23 yen at \$1.5605 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	9/12/94	16/12/94	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5600	1.5605	0.03 %
Deutsche Mark	1.5770	1.5728	0.27 %
Swiss Franc	1.3360	1.3329	0.23 %
French Franc	5.4165	5.4235	(0.13) %
Japanese Yen	100.08	100.23	(0.15) %

* USD Per STD

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	9/12/1994	16/12/1994
U.S. Dollar	6.06	7.43
Sterling Pound	6.12	7.56
Deutsche Mark	5.25	5.75
Swiss Franc	5.75	4.62
French Franc	5.38	6.31
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.56

Interest rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0953	1.1008
Deutsche Mark	0.4461	0.4483
Swiss Franc	0.5265	0.5291
French Franc	0.1294	0.1300
Japanese Yen	0.6992	0.7027
Dutch Guilder	0.3980	0.4000
Swedish Krona	0.0428	0.0430
Italian Lira	0.0428	0.0430
Belgian Franc	0.0428	0.0430

* Per 100

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Spain trounce Belgium in Euro soccer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Midfielder Luis Enrique Martinez broke down the Belgian defence to lead Spain to a 4-1 win Saturday and extend its perfect record in European Championship qualifying Group 2.

After striker Marc Degryse gave Belgium an early lead, Spain rallied on a goal by Fernando Hierro, a penalty by Donato and a counter-attack goal by Julio Salinas.

After setting up the vital first two goals with sterling play on the right wing, Luis Enrique scored the last goal on a run through the centre with two minutes left.

"What a beating," Degryse said.

The loss before a sellout crowd of 27,000 at the Vanden Stock Stadium seriously dented Belgium's chances to qualify for the 1996 finals in

England. Spain now leads Group 2 with the maximum 12 points out of four games, ahead of Macedonia with five points. Cyprus and Belgium have four points out of four games and defending European Champion Denmark has four out of three games. Armenia has one point. Two qualify for the finals.

"We'd better start working to the World Cup in 1998," said Belgian midfielder Lorenzo Staelens.

In the match, Belgium immediately put the Spaniards under pressure, and it soon paid off.

Newcomer Gilles de Bilde made a deep run on the left and played the ball into the centre from the sideline. Miguel Angel Nadal miscued his clearance, allowing De-

grise to score high into the net from 12 yards.

But soon Spanish class began to tell. Slowly they gained control of midfield and, especially over the right wing, pressure increased.

Luis Enrique Martinez dominated the right wing, and forced two good saves off Michael Preud'Homme around the half hour, on the second save however, the ball rebounded to Hierro.

With his back to the goal, Hierro started juggling the ball in the air, turned, breezed past a line of Belgian defenders and curled the ball past Preud'Homme in the right corner.

Luis Enrique again made the difference on the second goal in the 57th minute. He faked left, right, swept past Rudi Smids, drew three defenders to him in the middle

before giving a perfect pass to Jaka Gomen, who was promptly fouled by Philippe Albert.

Donato easily converted the penalty.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente immediately put an extra defender on, but Salinas was still able to continue the pressure. Left open in the centre, he beat Preud'Homme with a right-foot drive in the 68th minute.

Luis Enrique outran the defence a last time to conclude the drubbing in the 88th minute.

Belgium came into the game with two of its biggest stars missing through injury — playmaker Eozo Seito and central defender Georges Grun. Spanish midfielder Joser Luis Canimero was sidelined with a groin injury.

Gatien wins table tennis World Cup final

TAIPEI (R) — Frenchman Jean-Philippe Gatien fought back after losing the first two games to beat world number one Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium in the World Cup table tennis final Sunday.

Gatien triumphed 17-21 15-21 21-18 26-24 21-19 in a repeat of last year's world championship final in Gothenburg, Sweden, where the Frenchman beat Saive in five games.

Saive made an impressive start to the final here but during the crucial third game he slipped on the greasy floor and needed medical attention on court from a doctor and nurse.

The Belgian played on but lost the third game and then went down in two nail-biting tussles in the fourth and fifth.

"They wiped the table but they didn't wipe the floor. It was slippery (with sweat)," Saive said.

"I lost some balls in the fourth game because I was afraid of slipping, but I didn't loose (the match) because of this," he added.

World number seven Gatien's success crowned a week of victories over higher ranked players. He beat Swede Jan-Ove Waldner, ranked two, in the semifinal and China's Wang Tao, ranked three, in the quarter-final.

Gatien said: "I was a little surprised to come back from 2-0 down. My concentration was the key and I played well on important points."

Gatien said his backhand, usually a comparative weakness, worked well, while Saive said his returns of serve were a little off form.

The Frenchman won \$32,000 of the total \$105,000 prize money.

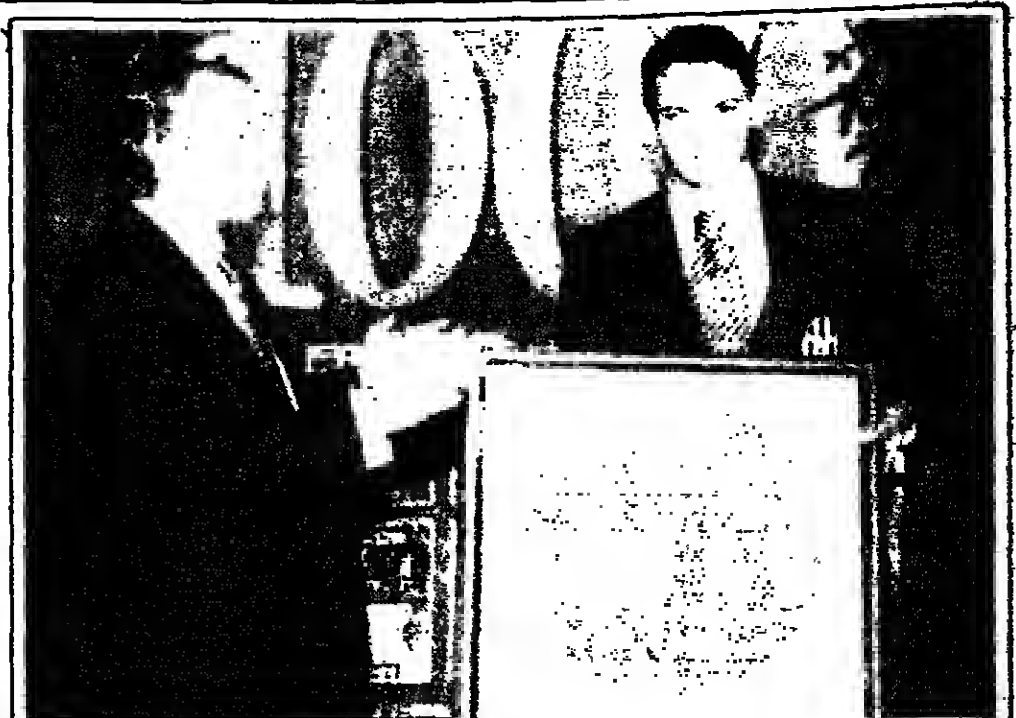
Forest shatter United Record

LONDON (AFP) — Blackburn extended their lead at the top of the English Premiership on Saturday despite being held to a goalless draw at lowly Leicester as Manchester United's unbeaten home record in the league was brought to an end by Nottingham Forest.

Stan Collymore — reportedly a transfer target for United — and former England captain Stuart Pearce did the damage in a 2-1 Forest victory that ended United's run of 12 consecutive home clean sheets.

The goals were the first that the champions have conceded at Old Trafford in 1,100 minutes of play since April.

Collymore scored his second goal against the Reds this season to give Forest the lead after 35 minutes with a superb 20-yard shot.



Juventus' Roberto Baggio (right) holds the trophy during the ceremony in which he was named award, which was presented to him by Spanish the "best European Soccer Player" (AFP sports journalist Jose Maria Garcia (left) photo)

49ers' Young breaks Montana's record of season touchdown passes

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Steve Young threw for 350 yards and three touchdowns to lead the high-powered

49ers to a 42-19 rout of the Denver Broncos as San Francisco clinched home-field advantage throughout the

playoffs on Saturday with their 10th consecutive win. Ricky Watters caught two of Young's scoring passes and

ran for a touchdown and William Floyd ran for two more TDs as the 49ers ran their record to a league-best 13-2.

A host of 49ers offensive records were equalled or bettered with the pummeling of the Broncos that virtually eliminated Denver (7-8) from playoff contention.

Young, who completed 20 of 29 passes, broke Joe Montana's 1989 team record of 31 touchdown passes in a season with his first scoring strike of the day. His fifth game of at least 300 yards passing this season tied a club record set four times by Montana.

During the 49ers' winning streak, Young has thrown 25 touchdown passes.

With one game left in the regular season, the 49ers have scored a team-record 491 points and tied a club mark with their 64th touchdown of the season.

Jerry Rice, who caught nine passes for 121 yards, improved his season totals to 107 receptions for a league-high 1,466 yards. He broke his own single-season club mark of 100 receptions set in 1990, becoming only the second player in NFL history to record two seasons of at least 100 receptions.

The Niners wasted little time, jumping out to a 14-0 lead in the first 5:46 of the game and they led 21-0 before Denver managed the first of two second-quarter field goals.

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The draw was held at Alahlia-Abela Superstore which since the beginning was involved with the preparation for the Christmas spirit and brought Santa all the way from Finland jointly with British Airways, Pepsi and Hotel Intercontinental. They had Santa in Alahlia-Abela for a photo shoot with the children and presented them with gifts and received their drawings on Jordan.

Santa was also present at Alahlia-Abela on Thursday 15.12.94 and drew the numbers for the lucky winners. Despite that Alahlia-Abela did not stop at that but was very extensive where they have decorated the second floor with Christmas decorations that made the place look sensational giving a real atmosphere for Christmas while buying your Christmas gifts for your loved ones. They are even having a promotion on the second floor which is to buy your child a gift from the second floor and Santa will deliver it to your child personally on Christmas eve Free.

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Abu Qoura wins season-ending rally tour

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a steamy start on a cold December morning, Mohammad Abu Qoura and co-driver Burhan Abu Qoura drove their Mitsubishi Galant to victory Friday in the Zannussi Rally Tour organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Mu'taz Al Masri and co-driver Mazen Al Kotob in a Volvo 240 came in second, followed by Faris Bustami and Rashed Wakileh in a Nissan 180 KGT in third place.

The event was the last on RACJ's schedule for the season, 22 participants registered, but only 18 set off from the club's headquarters at 9:45 a.m. driving a total distance of 300km on two stages to return to the starting point.

At the start, Tarek Madi and co-driver Wisam Bakir in a Mitsubishi Galant GLX took the lead keeping Bassam Tarazi, Moutaz Masri and Mohammad Abu Qoura behind.

Abu Qoura snatched the lead in the second stage to win first place with total penalties of 00:01:14.

Mu'taz Al Masri took second position from Bassam Tarazi with total

Indurain, Lemond in opposite directions

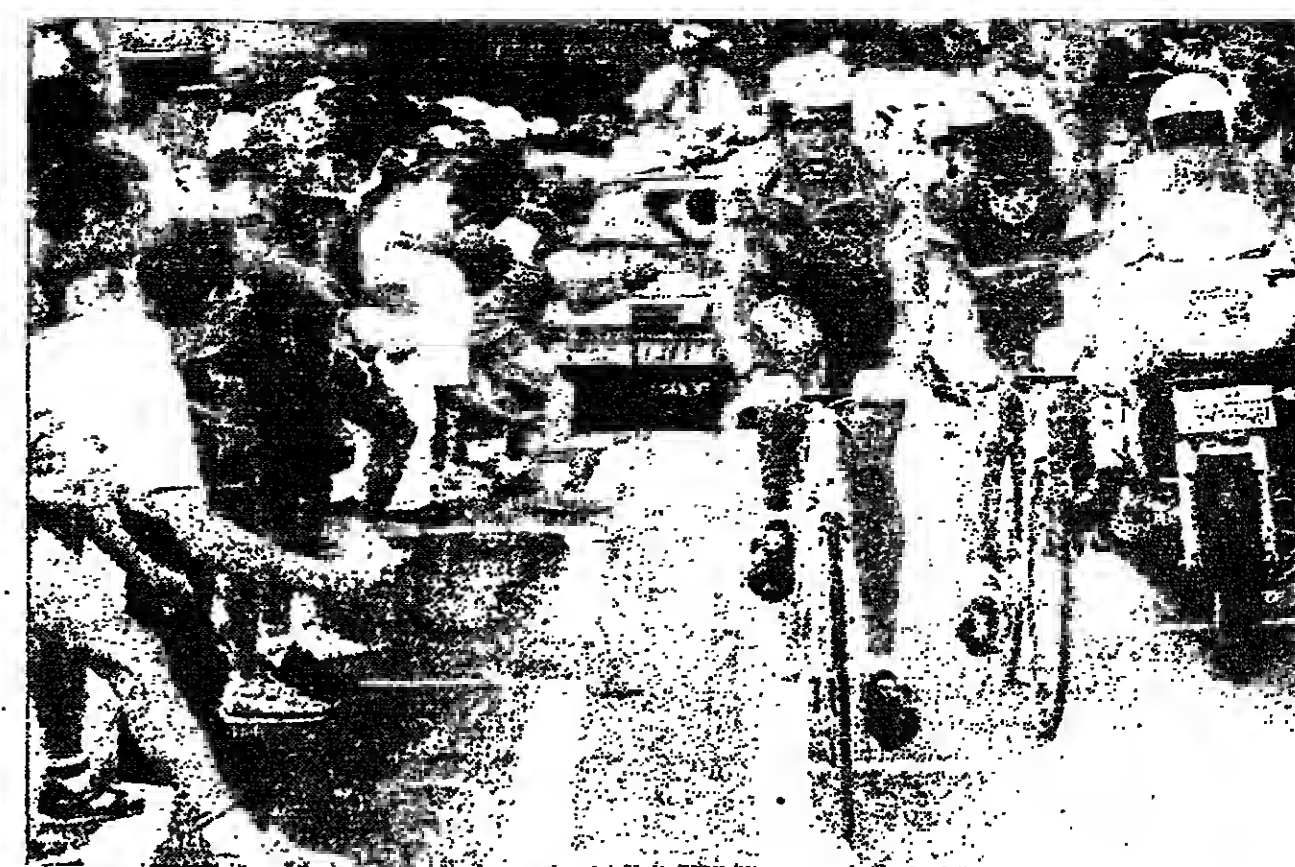
PARIS (AP) — The first few days of December had the two cyclists that dominated the last six years heading in different directions.

On Dec. 1, Miguel Indurain began his training for a record fifth consecutive Tour de France title. It's a tradition for the Spaniard to get back on his bike the first day of December, something he has done since 1984.

A few days later Greg Lemond, who dominated the sport before Indurain rode to power, announced his retirement from competition. Since 1984 he has made his presence felt in the Tour de France, whether by winning or dropping out.

Lemond said he had a rare muscular disease, mitochondrial myopathy, which sapped his strength the past three seasons. The 33-year-old American said he made his decision after considering the results of months of testing.

Between them, Lemond and Indurain had won every Tour de France since 1989. At one time, Lemond had a record of three victories, a second and a third in his first six Tours de France. A 1987 shooting accident kept him



Miguel Indurain (left) and Gianni Bugno struggle up a climb

sidelined for most of two seasons. He returned in 1989 to win by eight seconds in the closest finish of the race's history.

Lemond won again in 1990 but he faltered while in the lead in 1991 and faded to seventh as Indurain won. Lemond never finished another Tour, dropping out in 1992 and 1994 while not starting in 1993.

Indurain, meanwhile, has been winning his tours by larger margins every year since 1991.

His dominance of this year's race came within a four-day period of this year's loop. One-by-one his past, present and, perhaps, future rivals dropped out.

Italy's Claudio Chiappucci and Gianni Bugno, who traded steps on the winner's podium in 1991 and 1992, went out.

Tony Rominger of Switzerland, who was Indurain's biggest challenger after a second in 1993, dropped out. An intestinal virus was the major reason but his morale was broken by not being able to keep up with Indurain.

Lance Armstrong, who was expected to replace Lemond as the top American after his victory in the 1993 world professional championships, also stopped, not wanting to test himself in the

mountains for the second consecutive year.

Meanwhile Indurain kept riding on, making this year's race exciting only in the battle for second place. Russian Piotr Ugrumov came in second this year but was far from Indurain's level.

Another Russian, Yevgeny Berzin, won the Tour of Italy over Indurain but did not ride in the Tour de France. However many observers said that the Italian race was just preparation for Indurain.

When the prestige is on the line, such as it is in the Tour de France, Indurain overpowers everyone, as he does in the time trials.

Others may get the world titles, such as Luc Leblanc of France. Rominger may get the top ranking of the World Cycling Federation for the entire year as well as the world's one-hour record and third consecutive Tour of Spain.

But the one title they all want to win is the one that Indurain has had for the last four years. No one is betting against him at the moment in his drive for five.

Bernard Hinault and Jacques Anquetil of France and Eddy Merckx of Belgium each have five tour titles but not in consecutive years.

Lemond could have joined them if he had stayed healthy. After his victory in 1990, few people were betting against him.

However he declined in the following years but will be long remembered as the rider who made the United States notice European cycling.

"Greg was the first, he went to a European sport and brought an American attitude and American personality to it," Armstrong said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YAMAM HIRSH
©1994, Tribune Media Services

COMBINE THOSE CHANCES
North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 6
♥ 7
♦ A K J 9 7 4
♣ 10 6 5 3

EAST
♠ Q J 8 5 4
♥ A 10 9 4 3 2
♦ Q 8 6
♣ 7 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10
♥ K J 5
♦ 10 5
♣ K Q J 5 2

The bidding: South, West, North, East

Opening lead: Four of ♣
This hand was dealt in a World Championship match some years ago. One declarer succeeded in making the no-trump game; one did not. In our opinion, neither found the best line.

West's two-club overall showed the major suit. North's jump to three no trump without a stopper in either major was a well-reasoned bid. Since South had little or nothing in diamonds, the no-trump opening almost surely included stoppers in both major suits.

West led the fourth-best heart and declarer could not come to nine tricks without developing one of the minors. At one table South decided West probably had the ace of clubs

Nantes extend unbeaten run with away win

PARIS (R) — French League leaders Nantes extended their unbeaten run to 22 matches by winning 2-0 at Caen Saturday to stay two points clear of Champions Paris St. Germain.

The ambitious Paris club, recovering after a tentative start to the season, beat Strasbourg 1-0 with David Ginola scoring from the penalty spot after 35 minutes.

The league now takes a

break until January 7. Four days later youthful Nantes, and experienced PSG clash at the Parc Des Princes in the capital.

Nantes took the lead at Caen in the 24th minute thanks to Chadiao striker Japhet N'Doram. Caen defender Emmanuel Rival put the issue beyond doubt by scoring an own goal under pressure from international Nicolas Ouedec in the 67th minute.

"It was very important for

us to win before the winter break and I'm particularly pleased by the way the team played tonight," Nantes technical director Robert Budzinski said.

"One would expect the players to be tired by they're still going strong."

Paris looked sluggish against Strasbourg after expending considerable energy on the European front. They won all their six Champions League matches to reach the European Cup quarter-finals in grand style.

"We have played more matches than any other team and the players definitely need some holidays," the Paris club's deputy chairman Michel Denisot said. "But our goal is still to retain our title and I really believe we can make it."

A goalless home drew against Bastia allowed Lyon to move up one place to third ahead of Cannes, who lost 3-2 at Metz.

Monaco, badly needing points to book a place in Europe, looked set to win at

Auxerre after Youri Djorkaeff scored twice in the first nine minutes.

But Auxerre fought back in the second half to force a draw with goals by Moussa Sahib and Pascal Vahirua.

Monaco, hampered by a string of injuries, are a disappointing 11th, 18 points behind Nantes.

Struggling Sochaux dropped to last place by losing 1-0 at Lille. Caen and Montpellier are on 18 points alongside Sochaux but have a better goal difference.

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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

17 Come and take Christmas souvenir pictures with Santa in the lobby, for you and your children from 4 to 6 p.m. as of December 17th - 24th.

18 Daily Carols Choir singing daily carols from 5 to 6 p.m. in the lobby as of December 18th - 24th.

From The Pastry Shop Order your Buche de Noel, Christmas Cookies, and Christmas Desserts. Extension # 2032

24 Catch the Christmas spirit with candle lights and hot drinks. A Delicious Christmas Eve Dinner will be served plated at AL WALIMA and AL MANSAF for JD 15.000++

25 Traditional Continental & Middle Eastern Salad Bar Market on our Christmas Day Lunch Buffet Menu is served at AL WALIMA and AL MANSAF for JD 13.500++

19 **Children's Party**

HO HO HO...
On December 19th from 4 to 6 p.m. a special party will be held for the children with Santa Claus and his gifts JD 7.000 inclusive

31 Celebrate New Year's Eve and have a Dinner Buffet at AL MANSAF Restaurant for JD 30.000++

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ماريوت

2 killed in Bahrain violence

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Two young Bahrainis were killed Sunday in dawn clashes in a Muslim Shiite village in the worst violence since riots erupted a week ago in the Gulf states, witnesses said.

Police for the first time used helicopters to try to break up the crowd in the village of Sanabes, west of Manama, and also fired tear gas and rubber bullets, the witnesses contacted by the AFP from Nicosia said.

Fighting also raged overnight in other Shiite villages, they said. "Inhabitants were literally ordered to stay at home and lock the doors," one witness said.

Tensions were also said to be running high in the capital Manama, where the riots erupted last Monday to demand the release of Shiite Muslim leader Sheikh Ali Salman.

Police vehicles were posted at the city's strategic points, and especially near the hotel where the 15th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is due to open Monday.

Earlier Sunday, Bahrain for the first time admitted there were "troubles" in the country in which a policeman had been killed, others wounded and damage caused.

A statement from the Interior Ministry acknowledged the rioters were demanding the release of Sheikh Salman arrested after calling for the restoration of parliament which was dissolved in 1975.

It added that security forces had the situation under control and would do everything to restore law and order.

And it blamed the violence on a plot engineered from abroad.

A London-based dissident group, the Bahrain Freedom Movement, said on Friday that hundreds had been arrested for demanding the recall of parliament and the release of political prisoners.

Official sources in Bahrain said the protests during this week's Bahrain national day celebrations and ahead of Monday's GCC summit here were limited and life and business in the island was unaffected.

The authorities "are in control of the situation and will take the necessary measures to bring back order and security," said the statement released overnight by the official agency GNA and received in Dubai.

"From the start these incidents have not been spontaneous but have been planned and accompanied by a propaganda campaign from abroad," it added.

According to the statement, the "troubles" broke out on the same day as Sheikh Salman's arrest and have "continued almost daily."

Sheikh Salman who "returned two years ago from a long stay abroad" had been arrested for his involvement in an incident in Manama in November.

"A group of individuals, including some who were masked and armed with batons attacked and threw stones at participants in an annual marathon," on Nov. 25 in Manama, the statement said.

Security forces intervened and two of their men were wounded while a vehicle was damaged. "The demonstrators were dispersed and 12 of them arrested," it added.

In questioning Sheikh Salman "confirmed he had himself planned" the incident.

After his arrest "his assistants and supporters gathered in the (Shiite-Muslim dominated) towns of Bilad Al Qadim and Al Khamis," near Manama.

"Armed with batons, stones and blunt instruments they threatened passers-by, committing acts of vandalism, cutting off roads and attacking security forces," the statement added.

"These incidents were repeated almost daily, causing a number of wounded among the police and material damage," the statement added.

Majali urges West to aid PNA

Czech minister holds wide-ranging talks in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday urged Western countries to provide the Palestine National Authority (PNA) with the promised funds to help it establish and enhance its rule and build the required infrastructure for socio-economic development.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy, Dr. Majali noted that the West had promised to provide funds to the PNA not only to pay the salaries of its employees and police force but also to build infrastructure.

He said the donors should also stop throwing suspicion on the PNA's ability to handle the funds.

The prime minister said Jordan was keen on promoting its cooperation with the Czech Republic.

He also expressed Jordan's desire to enter trade agreements with the Czech Republic and to increase the exchanges of visits by officials and businessmen to discuss cooperation in developing agriculture and natural resources in Jordan.

Dr. Dlouhy voiced his country's support for the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, and said Jordan enjoys very good reputation worldwide making it eligible for invest-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday meets with a delegation from the Czech Republic (Petra photo)

ments and the focus of attention.

The Czech official met later with Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and discussed prospects for joint Czech-Jordanian ventures in water resources.

Mr. Irsheidat briefed the Czech official on irrigation and water projects in the Kingdom.

Dr. Rima Khalaf, minister of industry and trade, met also with Dr. Dlouhy and a

team accompanying him and discussed prospects for launching joint industrial ventures like glass, home appliances, and engineering industries, and in tourism.

Dr. Khalaf briefed the minister on Jordan's laws on encouraging investments in Jordan.

The Czech minister also held a meeting with Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif to discuss exchanges of agricultural tools and the sale

of Jordanian produce to the Czech Republic in winter.

Discussion over prospects for Czech-Jordanian cooperation in energy related affairs were discussed by Dr. Dlouhy and the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources. The two ministers explored the prospect of joint ventures to exploit oil shale which is found in abundance in the Kingdom and cooperation in geological studies.

The minister also met with Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC) Chairman Haidar Murad and discussed exchanges between the ACC and its Czech counterparts.

"Links with the ACC are important to provide a basis through which small and large enterprises in both countries can learn about each other," said Dr. Dlouhy.

His 24-hour visit to Amman, the Czech minister said, improved the possibility of investment here, although he added that the Czech private sector was still not capable of direct investment, but many firms would be able to participate in long term investments.

Dr. Dlouhy affirmed that his talks here were part of a larger strategy for Czech involvement in the Middle East region.

Definite agreements on cooperation next year, Czech minister says

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the Czech Republic will enter agreements on trade, protection of investment and taxation next year, Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy said Sunday.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Dlouhy described the talks he held with Minister of Trade and Industry Rima Khalaf as "very profound" that produced "tangible results."

"Agreements on trade, mutual protection of investment and avoidance of double taxation will be concluded next year," he said.

Dr. Dlouhy, the first Czech government member to visit the Kingdom since Czechoslovakia was split into two entities in 1991, said that his

meetings here were "intensive and successful."

In response to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's call for Western aid to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) (see story above), Dr. Dlouhy said he hoped the Czech Republic would be able to provide support.

"We hope to be involved in the construction of infrastructure in the occupied territories," he said.

Dr. Dlouhy said that he had come to Amman to improve Jordanian-Czech relations and to promote the Czech Republic.

On trade exchange, the balance of which is currently in favour of the Czech Republic, Dr. Dlouhy said: "Jordanian exports to the Czech Republic are low and all day I have been urging that the Jordanian private sector be

encouraged to participate in joint ventures."

In addition, he said, he hoped for increased exports of Jordanian produce to the republic and increased imports of Czech agricultural machinery to the Kingdom.

Dr. Dlouhy said that the Czech Republic recognised the issue of water as important and strategic. He added that the Czech Republic is very active in the production of irrigation equipment.

Regarding energy and industry, he said that the Czech Republic had proposed tenders for power-generation projects, in particular the planned expansion in Aqaba and in general the further development of electricity production network.

"I believe that the tender bid for the Aqaba project will be successful," Dr. Dlouhy asserted.

Princess Basma, Belgian deputy review interaction in women-related issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Sunday received Belgian parliament member Anne Marie Lizin and discussed with her means of enhancing Jordanian-Belgian cooperation in issues related to women.

Princess Basma briefed Mrs. Lizin on Jordanian women's achievements and the important role women play in the Kingdom's public life.

The Princess reviewed with Mrs. Lizin preparations for the fourth world conference on women to be held in Beijing and explained the outcome of related Arab meetings held in Amman in November.

Mrs. Lizin stressed Jordan's important role in the region and assured Princess Basma of her country's continuous cooperation and support for Jordan.

Also on Sunday, Princess Basma received the president and members of the Global Commission on Women's Health and was briefed on the committee's objectives and goals.

The commission, an advisory body to the World Health Organisation (WHO), was established in 1992 under a World Health Assembly

(WHA) resolution. The commission groups eminent personalities from a broad range of disciplines, including political, scientific and professional leaders from various parts of the world.

The commission's terms of reference include producing an agenda for action on women's health, supplying decision-makers with data on women's socio-economic and health conditions and providing a forum for consultation and dialogue with women's organisations, and other groups concerned with women's causes.

Princess Basma acceptance to serve as a member of the commission in response to an invitation extended to her by WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima. Princess Basma relayed her acceptance to join the commission's membership in a letter she sent to Dr. Nakajima early this month.

The president and members of the commission stressed the importance of placing women's health high on the development agenda and called for including it on the agenda of the world summit for social development which will be held in Copenhagen in March and the Beijing conference on women.

Justice Ministry works on updating laws — Tal

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tal said Sunday his ministry would seek to develop legislation related to the work of the judiciary.

At a meeting with a group of journalists and columnists, Mr. Tal said there were several draft laws, including one that covers the civil courts system, which would be debated by Parliament. The ministry will continue to develop and update similar laws, he said.

He praised the role of the judiciary in adhering to legislation, and said the ministry was planning to initiate a new programme for training judges and building bridges of contact between experienced judges and newly appointed judges. As part of

of these schemes, he said, the ministry also plans to hold course and to publish a magazine.

"We seek to offer a distinguished judicial service to citizens in a way conforming to the requirements of our age," the minister said.

He complained that the financial allocations for the Ministry of Justice were short of its needs, noting that there was a pressing need for having a housing scheme for judges.

The minister and the audience then had a discussion on the judiciary and means of reconsidering laws, including a draft law on information and investigations on stories published by newspapers by the general prosecutor's office.

Riyadh blames Yemen for clash on border

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia on Sunday blamed Yemen for an armed clash on their disputed border which it said left a Saudi worker dead.

A Saudi spokesman, quoted by the official news agency SPA, also denied Sanaa's accusations that it had violated Yemen's territorial integrity.

Sanaa said on Dec. 7 that Saudi Arabia had built roads and set up observation posts on Yemeni territory, and revealed that the two countries' troops had clashed in the disputed region.

But the Saudi spokesman said the clash in early December was "a Yemeni aggression against Saudi territory, during which (Yemeni forces) penetrated 10 kilometres inside the border."

"All Saudi Arabia had done was to build a road to link isolated Saudi villages, which are on Saudi territory in line with the Taef treaty," he added.

"Yemeni forces opened fire and killed one of the labourers who was working on the road."

Saudi Arabia and Yemen are locked in a long-running dispute over their border, notably in the Najran, Jizan and Assir regions which have been under Saudi control

since the 1934 Taef agreement.

Yemen maintains the agreement expired in September 1992 and says it does not want it extended.

The Saudi spokesman said that to prevent an escalation after the clash, the two sides held a meeting during which "our Yemeni brothers expressed understanding of the Saudi point of view."

He said a similar meeting would be held in coming days without giving details on who would attend.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Saturday he would meet Saudi King Fahd in coming weeks to resolve the conflict.

Mr. Saleh said the two neighbours had successfully contained armed border clashes and that he had held "positive and brotherly" talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz on the sidelines of an Islamic summit last week.

"We examined bilateral issues including the border question, and we agreed to continue contact," the president said, adding that a "Saudi-Yemeni summit meeting will take place in coming weeks."

"Other joint committees will be set up to examine the problems," he added.

Massive power cuts hit Algeria; food store blasted

TUNIS (R) — Massive power cuts, believed caused by sabotage, have hobbled out parts of the Algerian capital where a central food store was blown up and burnt in an attack by 40 armed men, media and diplomatic sources said on Sunday.

Algerian state radio on Sunday quoted the Algerian electricity company as saying power cuts in Algiers and the neighbouring region of Blida that started last Wednesday night would last a further three to four days.

Blida town, which is both the headquarters of the country's main military region covering the capital and renowned as a Muslim fun-

der, was hit by power cuts kilometres south of Algiers. Cuts were being rotated between areas and life remained normal, the radio said.

It did not explain what it described as a "dangerous incident" but two Algerian newspapers said guerrillas had blown up power pylons supplying the capital.

"An armed group has hit a high tension line feeding Algiers," the daily Tribune said, quoting unnamed sources.

The independent El Watan, generally well-informed on security issues, said five power pylons were blown up near Zemmoura town some 50 kilometres

COLUMN

British newspaper names \$27 million lottery winner

LONDON (R) — A newspaper, in a move to cause further controversy around Britain's new National Lottery, Sunday named the winner of a \$17.8 million (\$27.82 million) jackpot despite his pleas to remain anonymous. The News of the World splashed a picture of the winner and his wife across the front page with the headline "it was him," inside it gave his name together with more details and photographs of the man who scooped the massive prize. Media frenzy over the identity of the winner of Britain's biggest lottery prize has led to questions in parliament and a court battle between lottery organisers and newspaper editors. The High Court gave newspapers the go-ahead to name last week's winner, an ethnic Indian Muslim immigrant hunted down by tabloids eager for a "rags to riches" tale. But after overturning the injunction taken out by lottery organisers Camelot, tabloid newspaper editors had decided not to reveal who the mystery man was. The News of the World was unrepentant. "This story is not an intrusion into private grief, but a celebration of public joy," it said in an editorial. "It breaks no law or code of practice." A spokesman for Camelot said he was "very disappointed" by the newspaper's decision to publish the winner's name. He refused to confirm whether it was correct.

He complained that the financial allocations for the Ministry of Justice were short of its needs, noting that there was a pressing need for having a housing scheme for judges.

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of these schemes, he said, the ministry also plans to hold course and to publish a magazine.

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Kouchner may seek presidency

PARIS (AFP) — Former French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner, best known for trouble-shooting in hot-spots across the world, said on Sunday he might be a candidate in presidential elections due next April-May.

Mr. Kouchner, who held the health and humanitarian affairs portfolios in the former socialist government, said he had not yet made up his mind, but "tomorrow we shall see."

Mr. Kouchner, founder of the medical aid charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, was elected to the European Parliament last June on the Socialist Party ticket, but is not a party member. He made an international reputation with a series of spectacular relief missions, notably to Somalia and Bosnia.

Security forces intervened and two of their men were wounded while a vehicle was damaged. "The demonstrators were dispersed and 12 of them arrested," it added.

In questioning Sheikh Salman "confirmed he had himself planned" the incident.

After his arrest "his assistants and supporters gathered in the (Shiite-Muslim dominated) towns of Bilad Al Qadim and Al Khamis," near Manama.

"Armed with batons, stones and blunt instruments they threatened passers-by, committing acts of vandalism, cutting off roads and attacking security forces," the statement added.

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Carter in Sarajevo on peace mission

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter flew to Sarajevo on Sunday to launch a free-lance peace mission in Bosnia, tackling a conflict that has "daunted seasoned mediators before him."

"My hope is to contribute in a small way to peace and the protection of human rights, to the alleviation of tension in Bosnia," Mr. Carter said.

"I think there are possibilities for optimism but it is too early for me to say," he told reporters in Zagreb before boarding a U.N. military flight to the besieged Bosnian capital.

Mr. Carter spoke during a stopover in Croatia for consultations with the U.N. Protection Force, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and U.S. Ambassador Peter Galbraith.

He departed for Sarajevo later on Sunday to meet leaders of the mostly Muslim Bosnian government and its war enemy, the Bosnian Serbs who invited the ex-president to try to mediate an end to the intractable 32-month conflict.

He was due to see Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Monday.

Mr. Carter hoped later to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, grand master of the Bosnian Serbs' separatist war until he cut them off last summer, in a planned trip to Belgrade.

The former Democratic president was accompanied by his wife, Rosalynn, and two of his own negotiators.

White House officials urged Mr. Carter to avoid new initiatives and seek Serb acceptance of a peace plan drawn up by a big power "contact group" comprising the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia.

would get 51 per cent of Bosnia and the Serbs 49 per cent.

It has been approved by Muslims and Croats but rejected by Serbs, who would have to cede a third of the 70 per cent of the country they now hold after nearly three years of war.

The Carter mission drew an initial negative reaction by Bosnian government.

But Bosnian Premier Silajdzic softened the Bosnian stance when he met Mr. Carter Sunday in Zagreb.

Mr. Silajdzic said Sunday before his meeting Mr. Carter: "If Mr. Carter succeeds in getting the Bosnian Serbs to accept the contact group's peace plan, his mediation will be welcome."

His enmeshment was in marked contrast to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic's remark Friday that the trip would be a "waste of time" if Mr. Carter tried to change the contact group's take-it-or-leave-it partition plan.

Mr. Carter's arrival in Sarajevo also implied that he is satisfied that the Bosnian Serbs have carried through sufficiently on pledges made by Mr. Karadzic on Wednesday, notably promising an easing of relations with the U.N. Protection Force in Bosnia, a ceasefire in and around Sarajevo and a reopening of Sarajevo airport.

Mr. Carter emerged from brief talks with Mr. Tudjman telling journalists that "encouraged me in this trip."

"I had a very informative visit with your president," he said. "I'll be sharing the results of my visit with him after this trip is completed."

He called the talks with Mr. Tudjman "very mutually harmonious and a very constructive meeting."

Mr. Carter, 70, was president from 1977 to 1981 and

Somali gunmen demand ransom

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A group of Somali gunmen who took a French aid worker hostage have demanded compensation for two Somalis killed by bandits on June 15, claiming they were working at the time for the same agency.

Sanaa said on Dec. 7 that Saudi Arabia had built roads and set up observation posts on Yemeni territory, and revealed that the two countries' troops had clashed in the disputed region.

But the Saudi spokesman said the clash in early December was "a Yemeni aggression against Saudi territory, during which (Yemeni forces) penetrated 10 kilometres inside the border."

"All Saudi Arabia had done was to build a road to link isolated Saudi villages, which are on Saudi territory in line with the Taef treaty," he added.

"Yemeni forces opened fire and killed one of the labourers who was working on the road."

Saudi Arabia and Yemen are locked in a long-running dispute over their border, notably in the Najran, Jizan and Assir regions which have been under Saudi control

since the 1934 Taef agreement.

Yemen maintains the agreement expired in September 1992 and says it does not want it extended.

The Saudi spokesman said that to prevent an escalation after the clash, the two sides held a meeting during which "our Yemeni brothers expressed understanding of the Saudi point of view."

He said a similar meeting would be held in coming days without giving details on who would attend.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Saturday he would meet Saudi King Fahd in coming weeks to resolve the conflict.

Mr. Saleh said the two neighbours had successfully contained armed border clashes and that he had held "positive and brotherly" talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz on the sidelines of an Islamic summit last week.

"We examined bilateral issues including the border question, and we agreed to continue contact," the president said, adding that a "Saudi-Yemeni summit meeting will take place in coming weeks."

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